KHADI-GRAMODYOG

Vol. 2 May 1956 No.

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL, GRAMASEVAKS TRAINING CENTRE ... 15 JUN 1956

DISTORTED LIFE

"In the highly industrialised countries we have colossal systems of power dealing with huge numbers of men and women and vast masses of material. Men and women in large numbers are taken out of their natural context, cut adrift from their moorings and brought under a different system of life. They have ceased to be persons, subjects with inward life and personal choice and have become objects, things and instruments. Men need to be rooted in a place, custom and habit. These children of the machine are uprooted, displaced persons, immigrants. An organic society, through large-scale industrialisation, has become an amorphous inorganic mass. There is complete distortion of the basic conditions of normal human life."

Dr. S. RADHAKRISHNAN

Fragments of a Confession

(Philosophy of Radhakrishnan)

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(MINISTRY OF PRODUCTION)

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"The Board will be responsible for preparing and organising programmes for the production and development of Khadi and Village Industries, including training of personnel, manufacture and supply of equipment, supply of raw materials, marketing and research and study of the economic problems of different village industries. The Board will also function as a clearing house of information and experience relating to these industries".

(From the Resolution of the Government of India).

THE PRINCIPAL, GRAMASEVAKS TRAINING CENTRE
15 JUN 1956
ADUTURAI

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KHADI—GRAMODYOG

VOL. 2 MAY 1956 NO. 8

THE NEW INDUSTRIAL POLICY

The announcement of their industrial policy by the Government of India on 30th April has naturally aroused considerable interest, both in India and abroad. The comments have been generally favourable, except that industrialists have taken exception to the expansion of the public sector of industry and to the limitations imposed on the extension of private effort in certain fields of economic activity. The very idea of State participation in trading, whether internal or external, appears, moreover, repugnant to some businessmen. It is not our purpose here to refer to these aspects of the industrial policy. These comments are confined to such features as have a bearing on the development of what has been occasionally described as the social sector of our economy. The sector represents the operations of thousands of self-employed persons engaged in the production of various consumers' goods, mainly those in common demand, but inclusive also of handicrafts production.

The Missing Link

The main angle from which the industrial policy in this, as in other respects, has to be viewed is whether it conforms to the principles of the Constitution and whether it subserves fully the purposes of our Second Five Year Plan. In April 1948, when the previous declaration of policy was made, we had not formulated any plan of economic development, nor had we a Constitution accepted by the people. Various Directives of Social Policy are quoted in the statement, but not the one relating to the promotion of cottage industries, preferably on a

co-operative basis. Similarly, either in this connection or elsewhere, one misses a direct reference to the objective of social planning as set forth in the First Five Year Plan and elaborated in the Draft Outline of the Second Plan.

Two Objectives

Among the principal objectives, as adumbrated in the Draft Outline, are two which represent an approach to the subject of economic planning and which, in obedience to the fundamental principles of the Constitution must claim the highest degree of importance. These are the securing of " a large expansion of employment opportunities" and a "reduction of inequalities in income and wealth and a more even distribution of economic power." These are objectives which should inform the industrial policy of the future, because one or the other of the two objectives, namely, rapid industrialization has significance only insofar as it aids in the achievement of the main objectives, viz., people's livelihood and social equality. Similarly, raising the level of living in the country has little value if, with the growth of the national income, the income of those in the lowest income brackets do not rise in response to any economic policy that the nation adopts.

The Right Way

Judged by these tests, there is little in the pronouncement that can arouse enthusiasm. The mere expansion of the public sector or the confinement of the private sector to certain spheres can scarcely, by themselves, take us in the direction of social equality, or provide adequate opportunities for employment. The association of the State with the private sector in economic enterprises will not, again, enable us to reduce concentration of economic power. On the contrary, it may strengthen the forces making for concentration. Lastly, dispersal of location of industries does not necessarily connote diffusion of economic authority. It is the acceptance of a programme of decentralized production that can lead to social controls being truly effective in large spheres of our economic life.

Decentralized Production

The correct approach is reflected in the terms of reference prescribed by the Planning Commission for the Village and Small Scale Industries Committee, namely, (i) that the bulk of the increased production during the Plan period of consumer goods in common demand has to be provided by village and small scale industries, (ii) that employment provided by these industries should progressively increase and (iii) that production and marketing in these industries is to be organized in the main on co-operative lines. As is observed in the statement of policy, these industries provide immediate large-scale employment, they offer a method of ensuring a more equitable distribution of the national income and they facilitate an effective mobilization of resources of capital and skill which might

otherwise remain unutilized. These are the distinct advantages, it is admitted, this method of production offers.

Safeguards and Protection

That being the position, it is somewhat disappointing to find that the need for safeguarding this sector of our economy from intensive competition by large-scale manufacture does not receive much greater attention than in the policy statement of 1948. The Panel of Economists and Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis have shown better appreciation of the need for reservation or demarcation of spheres of production and for placing restraints on the expansion of a large-scale industry in the interest of the corresponding cottage industry. The happenings in the world of industry during the eight years that have intervened since the earlier declaration of policy underlines the value of such action. This was recognized by the Planning Commission in its observations on the subject of State Policy in the Report on the First Five Year Plan. Since then, industrial production has gone on without its having had any, except a negligible, effect on employment. Disparities of income and wealth are by no means getting reduced. While industrial workers may be getting higher wages, the earnings of those occupied in other forms of production, either agricultural or industrial, show absolutely no rise.

Essential Measures

The general impression one gathers on a perusal of this section of the Industrial Policy Statement is that the provision of safeguards and the grant of protection is linked up with the question of technological progress. The common experience is that technological progress leads to technogical unemployment. In a situation where the volume of unemployment has assumed vast proportions, the primary consideration at the moment should be to avoid, almost at all costs, any increase in unemployment. That is the touchstone by which national economic policy in this sphere should be tested. Vitality to be self-supporting, on which the statement lays stress, can be developed only if the essential measures of protection such as were conceived of by the Planning Commission in 1952—a few of which are in operation mainly in the fiscal sphere—are formulated on comprehensive lines and govern the production of consumers goods in common demand for the duration of two or three Plan periods. The absence of a clear directive in this respect in the Statement of Industrial Policy is hence likely to occasion some disappointment.

–Vaikunth L. Mehta

AMBAR CHARKHA AND THE LOK SABHA

The popular enthusiasm in favour of the Ambar Charkha which is being demonstrated in the country, is being reflected increasingly in the Lok Sabha. Of late the Question Hour in the House has shown an increasing awareness on

the part of the Members of Parliament of the urgency of Government's decision on Ambar Charkha programme and allocation of necessary funds for its implementation. This is a welcome development and if followed up with energy will create a wider appreciation of the problems relating to the reconstruction of our rural economy. A Government Committee of Experts is at present engaged in assessing the data collected as a result of the operation of the Ambar Charkha pilot programme. It is obvious that till the Committee has reported and the Government of India has taken a decision on its conclusions, the question of acceptance or non-acceptance of the full Ambar Charkha programme is irrelevant. What the Khadi Board has said is that, pending a final decision, there should be no delay in a susbtantial expansion of the pilot programme into a wider field of production. Such extension will facilitate arrangements for large-scale manufacture of Ambar Charkhas and for the organization to introduce them.

Experts At Work

The Government of India appears to have accepted this stand. Shri K. C. Reddi, Minister for Production, told the Lok Sabha: "We have constituted a Committee of representatives of the Planning Commission, Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of Production with the Secretary of the Ministry of Production as the Chairman thereof to go into the technical aspects of the Charkha and also to go into the economic aspects of the Charkha. That report we expect to get by the end of April or early in May. After the report of this Committee is made available, the Government will be in a position to come to a decision on the larger Ambar Charkha programme which the Khadi and Village Industries Board have already submitted to Government. I want to assure the House that no undue delay in regard to this matter will be allowed to take place by the Government. In order to obviate delay and prevent the work being held up, the Government have told the Board: 'You may go ahead with the manufacture of 10,000 or more Charkhas for the immediate present and it may be possible for us to come to a decision on the larger aspect within a month or two. Till then you should not keep quiet. You may go ahead with a fragmentary part of the programme and let us see what the results will be like."

The Field Tests

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru also told the House : "Government proceed on facts and data and it is collecting them. When all the facts come into its possession the Government will come to decisions...To the extent we are satisfied with the work of the Ambar Charkha, we shall give a free field, as far as possible. We shall not limit it provided we are satisfied." The All India Khadi and Village Indurtries Board and those who support it have never attempted to force the hands of the Government into accepting a programme the effectiveness of which they are not

fully satisfied. In fact the very pilot project of extensive field tests was suggested by the Board in order that the Ambar Charkha may be tried in varied conditions and its potentiality assessed at its true value. But one is entitled to expect from the Government a sympathetic approach to their programmes. If the Ambar Charkha as a result of the recent field experiments, proves to be an efficient instrument of yarn production, is it not fair that it should be given the fullest possible support? Such information as is at present available show that the field experiments, though hastily carried out, have substantially established the claims made for the Ambar Charkha. They have also shown what improvements are possible and can be effected without any basic change in the structure or the mechanism of the Charkha itself. There is, thus every promise that the Ambar Charkha will be able to deliver the goods, if the programme is effectively implemented. In such circumstances, is it not fair that no precipitate action should be taken by the Government to augment the spinning and weaving capacity of the organized mill sector?

Reports And Decisions

Shri Jawaharlal told the Lok Sabha: "Experts come to couclusions in the limited field referred to them. They do not examine the question from the wider field. They can only say that the Charkha produces good yarn of such quality and at such economic price. The other questions as to how much subsidy is to be paid etc., has to be considered and Government alone are competent to consider them." No doubt, decisions are based on policy considerations. What one is surprised at, is that, before Government takes a decision on the report of committees appointed by it, action, sometimes contrary to the recommendations of those committes, are taken in the name of Government. The Textile Enquiry Committee, presided over by Shri Nityanand Kanungo, recommended that mill production should be ceiled at 5,000 million yards per year and that the additional requirements of cloth during the Second Five Year Plan period should be produced by the decentralized handloom industry. That Committee also recommended that adequate supply of yarn should be assured to the handlooms and for this purpose suggested expansion of spindleage by 1.75 million spindles.

Soon after, the Planning Commission appointed the Small-Scale and Village Industries Committee to formulate an integrated programme for the development of this sector. This Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Textile Enquiry Committee that mill production should be pegged at 5,000 million yards and stated that no additional mill spindles should be licenced pending assessment of the potentialities of the Ambar Charkha and that all the additional requirements of cloth should be allotted to the handlooms. These reports have been before the Government for quite a long time. It is not known what decision the

Government has taken on the recommendations of these two committees. What is, however, known is that mill production has increased by nearly 100 million yards of cloth over the suggested ceiling and that 2.1 million additional spindles have been licenced.

Misapprehensions

It is facts such as these that give rise to misapprehensions and the need for certain assurances. Shri Nehru says: "We shall give no assurance now or later or at any time, because that question is entirely governed by different factors and concerns other matters, not the Ambar Charkha, but exports, demands, etc. For instance we may decide to go in for larger export. To give an assurance, I think, would be very unwise." If this statement had followed a regular Government decision on what policies it has decided to follow, there would no occasion to be disappointed. There is no such definite policy decision made yet. The Ambar Charkha programme depends for its success on the utilization of the yarn it produces. There is, therefore, the need for a clear definition of the role of the two sectors of cloth production—the organized and the unorganized—in planned development. The whole question is tied up with the more fundamental question of common-production-programme for the textile industry. Every effort on the part of the Government to effect larger exports of textiles would be welcome. But when we think in terms of exports of textiles, we should also take note of the condition of the export markets. Of late the trend has been of decreasing intake of Indian textiles in foreign countries. As the competitive power of other textile producing countries increases and as the undeveloped countries begin textile production programmes of their own, the outlet for Indian textiles will progressively decline. Augmentation of mill production on the expectation of export markets does not appear to be a wise policy. If anything, this augmented production will act as a boomerang and adversely affect the development programmes in the countryside and thus defeat the very objectives of planning for a socialistic pattern of society and economy.

MUSINGS OF THE MONTH

(By: *THE EDITOR*)

While Captains of Industry and Trade in this country decry the Ambar Charkha programme and development of village and cottage industries as an attempt to perpetuate low standards of living and primitive techniques, it is heartening to find that industrial labour finds in these lines of development the hope for the future. In a resolution passed by the Indian National Trade Union Congress at its annual session held in Surat the other day, this declaration is made : "There is no other alternative means which can give gainful occupation to such a large number of persons at such a low investment except Khadi and other village industries." Therefore, the Conference urged the Government of India "to act promptly and boldly and give the protection and all necessary financial and other assistance for the fullest development of these industries through organizations set up for the purpose." What is of even greater significance is that it demanded that "importance equal to that of the basic industries" should be given to Khadi and village industries and wanted the Government "to accept the recommendations of the Karve Committee and to issue no new permits for the installation of looms and spindles in the mechanized sector of the textile industry. The Conference emphasizes that the hand-spinning and hand-weaving industries are of special importance inasmuch as the Ambar Charkha and handloom provide the most suitable family occupation which is the pressing need of the country."

The Significance

The resolution of this premier representative organization of industrial workers in the country raises many questions which challenge the the very basis of the contentions advanced by mill-owners and other men in Big Business. The majority of the members that constitute the Indian National Trade Union Congress is drawn from the Textile mill industry. Its support to the Ambar Charka and Khadi, therefore, has a deeper meaning than the mere expression of an opinion in a controversy which has swayed feelings in the country and has compelled new thinking on economic tenets and the dynamics of economic growth. We have been told time and again that the worker in the textile mill earns 4 to 6 rupees a day — the average is about Rs. 3— while those who are engaged in the handloom industry do not earn more than a rupee or two a day. The position of the handspinner is still

worse, as the wages earned on the traditional Charkha do not exceed 4 to 8 annas a day. Even 12 annas a day wage envisaged in the Ambar Charkha programme falls far short of the average daily earnings of the worker tending the spindles in the mills. All these may be true. But in spite of these facts, why does an organization of industrial workers in the country support this allegedly primitive method of production and "perpetuate employment at low levels". This is a question that should engage the attention alike of the Captains of Industry and Trade and the Government of India, the State Governments and society as a whole.

At Whose Cost?

To the discerning the answer is not difficult to find. Each spinner and weaver in the mill realizes that his employment is created at the expense of many times over of their brotheren in the countryside. With all the "high earnings" and the glamour of the city, it is a strange spectacle in India that there has not emerged an industrial proletariat in the real sense of the term. The textile mill worker is as much wedded to his village, his little family plot of land as the villager himself. During the agricultural seasons absenteeism in textile mills and factories is the highest, for, then, the exodus begins to work on the little family plot to which the workers are attached. Why have they left their homes and agricultural surroundings which seem to draw them away periodically from their place of remunerative labour, and come to the cities? The question tells the tragic story of the pauperisation of the peasant and the state of his indebtedness which has turned him into a destitute. Any one who is acquainted with the story of the land and the people who till it, knows only too well that rack-renting and rapacious money lending have progressively eliminated the people from the land they tilled and reduced them to the position of serfs. If any one cares to analyse the pattern of expenditure of these mill workers, he will find that a large portion of their earnings go in home remittances. It is this remittance that sustains the family in the village and helps it to keep up the little plot of land which still remains with it. If gainful employment other than agricultural occupations is available to them in the villages, it is anyone's guess that the workers would much rather prefer to go back to the surroundings with which they are familiar and which are congenial for their life, work and development. If such occupations are wide-spread and offer employment opportunities in and around the villages, the trek to the city may also diminish to a trickle. Industrial labour in India realizes that if the mass migration from the villages is controlled or stopped, there will be no labour market for the entrepreneur to exploit so as to accumulate profits. The accumulation of profit through the private ownership of the means of production is possible only in conditions of a glutted labour market.

Pauperisation

Disintegration of the rural economy and the wanton destruction of village industries created a situation in which the artisans had to look for whatever employment they could secure either in and around their own surroundings or elsewhere in new and unfamiliar places. Displacement from their traditional occupations with no other occupation in which they could engage themselves gainfully, they began to look to the land to support them. But an increasing population and non-expanding acreage under cultivation resulted in the over-burdening the land. That explains the migratory movement from the villages and the advantage that was taken of the helplessness of the displaced artisans and others to build up "sweat shops" in the cities. It is these "sweat shops" that are glorified as big enterprises of "men of intelligence and enterprise". Those who work in these factories know only too well that there is no escape for them from exploitation so long as there is no alternative occupation to which they can switch over. They also know that their employment and the relatively higher wages they earn have not in any way helped their people to improve their standard of living. To them the "snow ball effect" often talked of as the concomitant of large-scale industrialization, has meant only the freezing of the life streams of village prosperity.

The Effects

These, perhaps, are some of the considerations which must have impelled the Indian National Trade Union Congress to adopt the resolution in support of the development of Khadi and village industries and the adjuration to the Government to act "promptly and boldly to give protection and all necessary financial and other assistance for their fullest development". If the development plans are unequivocally and whole-heartedly backed up by the State, there is no reason to believe that surplus labour which hangs on to the cities and acts as the standing army of the unemployed ready to be exploited or used as the bargaining counter to hammer down wages, will cease to crowd the infested slums in which it lives in disease and dirt and go back to the villages and take up productive work in the new industries or rather in industries which were theirs at one time. With such a reverse trend in the movement of the working population, it is possible that cities will cease to be of any particular attraction to the village folk. It is also possible that this development might pave the way for the new industrial revolution of decentralised organisation of production and a more rapid diffusion of knowledge about higher technology and its adoption as a means to improve individual productivity and the quality of his product. Further, there is the possiblity of a more rapid rate of industrial progress and the restoration of the union between agriculture and manufacturing industry and a greater balance between heavy producer goods

industries and the small-scale manufacturing industries. Those who are actuated by considerations of national progress side by side with social welfare, as distinct from motives of accumulation of profits and worldly wealth, will find in this line of development a surer method of spreading new skills and their effective utilisation by an ever-increasing number of people and thereby create the climate and the condition for their own economic growth.

The Momentum

People, once roused to productive activity, are more likely to be moved by the momentum of their own enthusiasm and attain heights of endeavour which will break all barriers against progress and which will give them a sense of strength and self-reliance. Once the people have begun to recognize this strength of self-reliance, it is hardly likely that they would want to loose that strength by seeking dependence on other people's enterprise. Such are the consequences that flow from the call of the Indian National Trade Union Congress to the Government "to accept the recommendations of the Karve Committee and to issue no permits for the further installation of looms and spindles in the mechanized sector of the textile industry." Another more important and immediate consequence of this call will be that the workers who are members of this premier representative organisation will help in the successful working of the Ambar Charkha programme by introducing the Charkha in their own families. The more ingenious among them may even utilise their knowledge of mill techniques to effect improvements in the Charkha or work to fashion their tools and techniques suitable for home production.

Which Is Better ?

The INTUC Conference resolution, that is to say, opens out a new perspective to the Ambar Charkha programme in particular and to the development of other village industries in general. If the State responds to the call of the INTUC in ample measure, a new and progressive tone can be brought into planning not only for full employment, for a more rapid rate in the growth of the economy as well. In the process the prevalant disparities and social and economic inequities will perceptibly be lessened and a pattern of development more in tune with the size of the country, its demographic trends and its social organisation will develop, making for a harmonious transition to the next and higher stage of development. The road to the Co-operative Socialist Commonwealth will be straightened. Is such a line of growth which promises prosperity to all a more desirable course to follow in the interest of national and social betterment or the phantom raised by Big Business of a famine of this and scarcity of that article in common demand ?

TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION

The following is the text of the resolution passed by the INTUC Conference at Surat on Khadi and other village and small-scale industries :

"This Conference notes with satisfaction that the primary need of providing employment to millions of unemployed and under-employed persons in the country has been recognized and the Second Five Year Plan has accepted the policy of decentralized production of consumer goods industries such as Khadi, village and small-scale industries.

The INTUC urges upon the Government to act promptly and boldly and give due protection to and provide all necessary financial and other assistance for the fullest development of the Khadi and other village and small-scale industries through organizations set up for the purpose by giving them importance equal to that of the basic industries. The Conference requests the Government to accept the recommendations of the Karve Committee and to issue no permits for the further installation of looms and spindles in the mechanized section of the textile industry. This Conference is definitely of opinion that there is no other alternative means which can give gainful occupation to such a large number of persons at such a low investment, except Khadi and other village industries. The Conference emphasizes that in this context hand-spinning and hand-weaving industries are of special importance inasmuch as the Ambar Charkha and the hand-loom provide the most suitable family occupation which is a pressing need of the country."

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KHADI WORKERS AND THE AMBAR CHARKHA PROGRAMME

In the last issue of 'Khadi–Gramodyog' we published the decision taken at a Conference of representative Khadi workers from all over the country. The Conference was held on the 1st and 2nd April in Ahmedabad. Over 50 representative Khadi workers were present at the Conference. Among those who participated in the discussions were :

1. Shri Vaikuth L. Mehta
2. ,, Shankarlal Banker (Ahmedabad)
3. ,, Dhwaja Prasad Sahu (Bihar)
4. ,, R. Srinivasan (Jt. Member Secretary, Khadi Board)
5. ,, Pranlal Kapadia (Member Secretary, Khadi Board)
6. ,, Raojibhai Patel, (Nadiad)
7. ,, S. R Vasavada, (Ahmedabad)
8. ,, Ratubhai Adani, (Saurashtra)
9. ,, Vichitra Narayan Sharma (Uttar Pradesh)
10. ,, C. K. Nasir, M. P., (Delhi)
11. ,, Hariram Chopra, (Punjab)
12. ,, Bhimsen Vedalankar, (Punjab)
13. ,, Deokaransingh Thakur, (Uttar Pradesh)
14. ,, Rameshwar Agarwal, (Rajasthan)
15. ,, Ranade, (Madhya Bharat)
16. ,, K. A. Venkataramaiah, (Karnatak)
17. ,, Indulal Shah, (Bombay)
18. ,, Kapilbhai, (Uttar Pradesh)
19. ,, K. Vaidyanathan, (Hyderabad)
20. Shri M. H. Shah (Bangalore)
21. ,, V. V. Jerajani, (Bombay)
22. ,, M. S. Narayana Rao, (Tamilnad)
23. ,, Laxmidas Ashar, (Bombay)
24. ,, Dwaraknath Lele, (Bombay)
25. ,, Krishnadas Gandhi, (Sarva Seva Sangh)
26. ,, N. R. Sowney, (Sarva Seva Sangh)

Shri Vaikunth L. Mehta, Chairman of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board who presided over the deliberations, said that the Conference had met for consideration of two main points:

1. The problem and programme of Ambar Charkha which had drawn the attention not only of Khadi workers but also of the Government and the general public.

2. The question of organizing a Federation of Khadi Institutions in the country so that those engaged in Khadi work could meet together, discuss and evolve cencerted programmes of work.

A Good Instrument

Discussion that followed on the first day referred to the experiments that were going on in the different States on the working of the Ambar Charkha. Speaker after speaker testified to the very satisfactory performance of the

Ambar Charkha in his area and to the enthusiastic response from spinners and the public. Each area expressed the view that there should be no delay in putting the programme in action, no matter Government sanction to it was received or not.

Shri C. K. Nair, M. P. (Delhi) said that the Ambar Charkha was found to be good. Where they were found not up to the mark, it was due to the Charkhas supplied being not technically in perfect condition. Besides, those who were in charge of these experiments, in many cases, were not themselves sufficiently trained. This had an adverse effect on the successful execution of the experiments. Moreover, the pilot project programme could not be launched according to schedule at a time in all the places.

In Laboratories

Shri Pranlal S. Kapadia, Member Secretary of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board, observed that, as desired by the Government, Ambar Charkhas were supplied to the Cotton Technological Laboratory at Matunga, Bombay, and to the *Atira* in Ahmedabad and to certain other laboratories in other parts of the country. There were delays on the part of these laboratories in taking up their investigations. At some of the places where such investigations were taken up the Board was not kept informed of the progress of their tests. Experience in several Parishramalayas, however, was that in 8 hours not only 8 hanks but 10 and even 12 hanks could be spun. He was convinced that, given the facilities required, the Ambar Charkha could not only prove the claims made for it, but could deliver the goods. Success of the Ambar Charkha programme was dependent on the provision of these facilities.

Wanted Reorientation

Shri Dhwaja Prasad Sahu (Bihar Khadi Samiti) observed that the time had come for a thorough reorientation of the Khadi programme. When the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board was established, old Khadi and Constructive workers joined it with a view to help the Government to carry out programmes in the field of Khadi and Village Industries and thus relieve unemployment in the country. If it was not possible to carry out their programmes because of handicaps or want of adequate Government assistance, he did not see any reason why these Khadi and Constructive workers should continue to work with the Board. He said that the Ambar Charkha had been proved to be definitely more efficient than the traditional Charkha. Khadi workers with 30 years of experience behind them were satisfied with the performance and the promise of the Ambar Charkha. If Government was not prepared to be guided by their experience and advice, it would be the duty of Khadi workers to convince the Government of the truth of what they said.

In Rajasthan

Shri Rameshwar Agarwal (Rajasthan)

said that his experience with the Parishramalayas was that the Ambar Charkha was found more satisfactory than was expected. There was the apprehension that women in Rajasthan would not leave off their pardah and come out to work in the Parishramalayas. Experience, however, showed that the Ambar Charkha was exceedingly popular with women and a large number of them attended the Ambar Charkha Parishramalayas. Demand for these Charkhas increased day by day and numerous enquiries were being received from the general public as well, as to when they could obtain the Ambar Charkha sets. This popular enthusiasm for the Ambar Charkha should be taken advantage of and the programme should be carried out, whether Government assistance was received or not.

On With The Programme

Shri Kaplibhai Sharma (Uttar Pradesh) told the meeting that popular enthusiasm for the Ambar Charkha in Uttar Pradesh was gathering great momentum. He said that the Ambar Charkha could be introduced in large numbers even in areas where the traditional Charkhas were not plying. Working in the Parishramalayas in Uttar Pradesh was satisfactory. Spinning on the Ambar Charkha had been taken up by women in very large numbers. There was no need to await Government decision on the Ambar Charkha programme. They should go ahead with it. They should not rely solely on Government assistance. If they went about with the programme with confidence and courage, the response from the villages would be overwhelming.

Shri M. S. Narayan Rao (Tamil Nad) informed the Conference that in thousands of villages in Tamil Nad the people were eagerly awaiting the introduction of the Ambar Charkha. A very large number of these Charkhas could be successfully introduced in that region.

No Fears at all

Shri K. A. Venkataramaiah (Karnatak and Mysore) also reported on the great popular enthusiasm among the people to take up the Ambar Charkha programme. In order to cope with the demand it would be necessary to set up Saranjam Karyalayas to manufacture Ambar Charkhas and their accessories. Spinners on the traditional charkha who attended the Parishramalayas in his region were so pleased with the Charkha that they expressed their desire to buy these sets and work on them. He was sure that there would be enough number of weavers forthcoming to weave the Ambar Charkha yarn if they were assured of regular and adequate supplies.

His conclusion was based upon the response of the weavers weaving with mill yarn. Some of the Parishramalayas in Karnatak had been located at places where there were such weavers in large numbers. Working on their looms with the Ambar yarn they experienced no trouble and were prepared to accept such yarn at even reduced rates, if necessary. Samples of pieces of cloth woven

from the Ambar yarn ware also found to be qualitatively favourable.

Shri K. Vaidyanathan (Hyderabad) stated that his experience of the working of Parishramalayas and the popular response to the Ambar Charkha was the same as that of Shri Venkataramiah. He reported that with the increasing popularity of the Ambar Charkha, demand for the traditional charkha was also growing. He had no fears that adequate numbers of handloom weavers would not be forthcoming to weave with Ambar yarn. On the other hand he could boldly say that there would be no scarcity of weavers at all.

Good Response

Shri Ranade (Madhya Bharat) said that in the Parishramalayas in his region 125 Ambar Charkhas had been working. His experience was that two spinners should not be asked to work on the same charkha as was the case in some of the Parishramalayas. In introducing the programme there would be one worker to supervise 10 Charkhas. Handloom co-operative societies in Madhya Bharat who evinced great enthusiasm and co-operated with them at the beginning, later showed a coolness for some strange reason. When the causes for this sudden change of attitude were investigated and the weavers were approached for a more co-operative attitude, they found the response encouraging. The reaction of these weavers to the Ambar yarn was that it contained more twist than was necessary. Public institutions in Madhya Bharat were desirous of introducing their own Ambar Charkha programmes and were asking for adequate arrangements for training in spinning on them.

Saurashtra Scheme

Shri Ratubhai Adani, Saurashtra, explained the Ambar Charkha programme prepared by the Saurashtra Government and said that the Government would start executing the programme without delay. There were four Parishramalayas functioning in Saurashtra. It was found that ordinarily a spinner turned out 6 hanks of yarn in 8 hours; but there were numerous instances of spinners who turned out not only 8 hanks but 10 and 12 hanks of yarn in 8 hours. His State Government had already made arrangements for large-scale production of Ambar Charkhas in the State. Twenty-five production units with eight carpenters each would be set up. Each unit would manufacture 500 charkhas in a year. But they had plans to expand this production programme to 40 units in the State. Arrangements had also been made for training at Rajkot. Saurashtra was not waiting for Central Government's sanctions to launch the programme. The State Government would advance a loan of Rs. 6000 to each of the units for production of Ambar Charkhas. Shri Adani stressed the importance to set up adequate arrangements for the servicing of Ambar Charkhas after they went into production. His view was that for every 20 charkhas there should be one service man. The Saurashtra State Board had already

decided to introduce 5000 Charkhas in the first year of the Five Year programme.

In the Punjab

Shri Hariram Chopra, Punjab, reported on the working of the Parishramalayas in the Punjab. As elsewhere in the Punjab, too, there was great enthusiasm among the spinners for the Ambar Charkha. In his area self-sufficiency spinners predominated and they found that the Ambar Charkha was more efficient. They were prepared for outright purchase of large numbers of Ambar Charkhas and even pay the price in advance in anticipation of supply. There was no difficulty about weavers. A feature of the Parishramalayas in the Punjab was that quite a large number of young women were interested and if the Charkhas were made available to them they would work on them steadily.

Shri Raojibhai Patel (Gujarat) said that in Gujarat women enthusiastically took to the Ambar Charkha. Where the Ambar yarn was tried, weavers expressed their satisfaction with the quality and found no difficulties in weaving. As in Karnatak, here too, they would be willing to work at reduced rates. The problem was not that the five lakhs of Ambar Charkhas could not be introduced, but it was that of producing adequate quantities of raw materials and facilities to stock them.

Shri Indulal Shah (Bombay Suburban Dist.) said that it would be possible to introduce 10,000 Charkhas in Greater Bombay.

Khadi Workers Combine

Shri Vichitra Narayan Sharma (Uttar Pradesh) emphasised the need to go ahead with the Ambar Charkha programme irrespective of whether sufficient aid was forthcoming from the Centre or not. The villagers, he said, sent out every year large amounts of money for their cloth requirements. The Ambar Charkha would stop this drain from the villages and help to develop the economy of the villages. He declared that Khadi work alone could provide employment on a large-scale. It was the duty of Khadi workers and Khadi organisations to forestal every conceivable impediment to the large-scale introduction of the Ambar Charkhas by forming a strong central organization which could undertake successfully a task of this magnitude. He laid stress on the self-sufficiency aspect of the programme and advocated immediate efforts to further improve the Ambar Charkha and not to release them before proper tests. This would facilitate easy operation by the spinners. As the Ambar Khadi would definitely be cheaper than the traditional Khadi, the profits accruing out of the Ambar Khadi should be utilised for the benefit of the village population.

Telling Facts

Shri Krishnadas Gandhi pointed out that in every village home in South India spinning was prevalent. He cited the instances of spinners producing 13 hanks of yarn of 36 counts in 8 hours.

(Contd. on Page 45)

POINT COUNTER POINT

"Economic Progress Not At Cost of Individual Freedom".–A headline.

In India the individual is free to starve; he cannot choose not to live and escape starvation: for suicide is a crime while poverty is virtue.

x x x

"The ideological impulse of establishing an egalitarian society should be restrained in the interest of obtaining results".—Quoted from 'Times of India'.

Only the results and their kind are not specified. This is what one would consider the most important in a plan for development. In any place other than the precincts of a cloth mill the statement would be odd. Where mammon rules, the soul disappears.

x x x

"In the United States it is possible for every worker to own a car and other good things of life. If this is capitalism there need not be any objection to have a capitalist society in India".—From a report in 'Times of India'.

Yes, if India also had as much land and as much physical volume of resources and as small a population and was as technically skilled. The main point is, do we have and will we ever be ?

x x x

The same speaker added that industrialists should function in a manner that will secure identification of the workers with the industry. If that could be achieved, a way will have been found to reconcile industrial progress with democracy.

What happens then to the "private sector" and "individual freedom ?"

x x x

"India has taken an irrevocable decision to industrialize, though during the transition period, she may have to make provisions and preserve small industries in the interest of providing employment to a much larger number of people."—A report in 'Times of India.'

What ? Where is "the snow ball effect" of large-scale industrialization ?

x x x

"I do not believe in the Sarvodaya approach of voluntary contributions or voluntary labour. I believe that every person must be assigned a job which he must do. That I feel is the only way to

achieve a socialistic society in the country."–Adapted from a press report.

It may "well be a debatable point whether the Russian technique of industrialization will succeed in China." But the speaker is convinced, it can work in India. That solves the problem of totalitarian methods for "democratic progress" and "individual freedom."

x x x

Shri C. D. Pande, speaking in the Lok Sabha, strongly opposed the Ambar Charkha and said : "It would only result in a waste of national energy and money. No educated unemployed would be willing to work for 8 hours on the Ambar Charkha on a mere pittance of 0–14–0 or even less.

Of course, they would all like to be Rs. 40 a-day M. P. s chatting in the lobbies!

x x x

"Establishment of large-scale industries will absorb only a small percentage of the educated unemployed population. Major portion would have to find employment in village or small-scale industries or by engaging in agriculture. It may not be possible to provide white collar jobs for even a small percentage of the educated unemployed." – Shri K. Velayudhan Nair, Chairman of the T. C. Committee on Educated Unemployed.

Shri Velayudhan Nair is counting without Shri C. D. Pande, M. P.

x x x

Referring to the Cotton Textile Industry, Shri N. H. Tata said: "It is tragic to find a noose being put around the neck of the entrepreneur who has struggled and developed the industry representing a national investment of Rs. 113 crores."

And private profits growing many times over !

x x x

"Its (Ambar Charkha's) economic advantage today—if it is found to be as efficient for mass production as its supporters claim—is that it looks like a good absorbant of surplus labour power. But our planning would be totally pointless unless it optimistically can look forward to the absorption of the greatest part if not the whole of the surplus in new expanding consumer industries. The Ambar Charkha is logical only on the basis of the gap in the total employment capacity of our present consumer industries."–

– FPJ. Editorial, April 27.

Thanks for small mercies. The largest of our consumer goods industries, viz., the textile mill industry, is symbolic of the absorption power of large-scale industrial undertakings. If the mass unemployment that the industry has created in the countryside is its "capacity to adsorb the unemployed", we have

no objection, if the Ambar Charkha is accepted to fill the "gap". If the short term is assured, the long term will take care of itself, for the "gap" will persist to be filled in.

x x x

(1) "Enthusiasm for Khadi and Village Industries has led Shri Vaikunth L. Mehta to accuse Shri T. T. Krishnamachari of being anti-democratic for saying that, though committees may be appointed to enquire into particular questions, "it is the Government who has to take a decision".

(2) "Shri Krishnamachari, for one thing, had not claimed the right of final decision for any single Minister or Government Official as Shri Mehta alleges".

(3) "And it would be strange tenet of modern democracy that the moment the Government appoints an expert committee, it surrenders its right of final decision."

–Indian Express: Editorial, April 26.

(1) Shri Vaikunth Mehta never questioned the fact that it is for the Government to take final decision. What he ventured to point out was only this that whatever the decision is, it should be taken *after the recommendations of the Committees are received and considered.*

(2) No single Cabinet Minister, of course, claims the right for final decision by himself. The issue of licences for additional mill spindles only underlines the unclaimed right.

(3) It would indeed be a strange tenet of modern democracy that a Government should continue to act on matters which are referred to an Expert Committee while this committee is still engaged in its investigation work. No one, least of all Shri Vaikunth Mehta, will ever aver that the Government should surrender its right of final decision. What reasonable people, however, would expect is that after appointing an expert committee, the Government should await its findings before taking a final decision and no action, prejudicial to the inquiry, should be taken.

x x x

Shri G. D. Somani is reported to have said: "The Ambar Charkha and the handlooms will not be able to achieve the targets assigned to them, while the productively efficient mill sector is prevented by artificial curbs from expanding its production to meet the increased demand during the Plan period. Such a policy will only lead to the opening of Pandora's Box."

The lid over Pandora's box was blown up with the hooting of the first siren of the first mill that was established in this country 100 years ago. Shri Somani may well undertake an extensive tour of the villages of India and witness the squalour

and the privation in which the millions of men, women and children live and die. Why ? He could profit by a visit to the repulsive holes called tenements in the slums of Bombay which are by-products of Big Business.

x x x

"Planning for the country's economic betterment implies ingenuity in arranging to see that unemployed labour is utilized to serve the objective of higher standard of life".

-Prof. C. N. Vakil.

Whose standard of life ? and how ? The Professor is, indeed, ingenious.

x x x

"The scope for additional employment in construction work such as roads, irrigation and housing is unlimited. Instead of taking the difficult method of working out such employment activities, the authorities sought an easy method of escape by lending support to cottage industries. There is the danger of this method becoming a permanent feature of the economy with its obvious consequence on the progress of the country."

—C. N. Vakil.

Is "ingenuity" equivalent to absurdity ? "The scope of additional employment in construction work such as roads, irrigation and housing is unlimited", dear Professor, only to the extent that the population is limited. Is it escapism to support cottage industries which give large employment openings? May we quote the Professor against himself ?

Says the Professor: "In a country which does not possess adequate capacity to manufacture different types of capital equipment, the ability of the community to offer paid employment to the people is limited. The activities of the public as well as the private sector can only lead to the employment of a minor portion of the population. As a majority of the community is engaged in agricultural pursuits, and as agriculture is a seasonal occupation, there is the enormous supply of the surplus time and energy, for which on account of the limitations of country's resources, we have not been in a position to provide suitable avenues of employment. Secondly, a good portion of the labour force in the villages tends to be surplus if certain reorganizations and changes are introduced. On account of the lack of opportunities of employment in other pursuits, people tend to cling to agriculture. With the increase in the size of the population the volume of disguised unemployment increases, as there is no corresponding increase in the ability of the community to absorb in gainful employment the additional population. The wage level as well as the earnings of agriculturists also tend to be depressed. As a long-term remedy for these

maladies it is true that large-scale industrialisation offers a way out. But in a country like India, the pace of industrialisation is bound to be slow on account of intrinsic limitations. The community will have, therefore, either to accept the continuance of both seasonal as well as disguised unemployment, or to adopt certain self-imposed restrictions and commitments suchwise that labour, which would have been otherwise idle, is utilised for augmenting the capital wealth of the community till conditions change by greater industrialisation. Unemployment in a country like ours is a structural characteristic of the economy, unlike in advanced countries where unemployment tends to result on account of trade fluctuations as well as on account of certain organisational deficiencies. In a backward country like India, any organisational effort on the part of Government is not likely to lead to full employment immediately. But, should we resign ourselves to this situation and do nothing ?"

He sees danger in the development of cottage industries because they may become a permanent feature of the economy. Well ! Read your economics Professor, again. When were Cottage Industries only a passing phase of the economy ?

x x x

Shri S. P. Jain says : "Cottage Industries do not provide any large level of employment and proper investment in industries with modern technique and of a diversified character will provide equally large employment. Besides, cottage industries do not contribute to the revenues for social services, do not provide employment that offers an increasing standard of living and have to depend upon subsidies."

Shri Jain would do well to consult his economic experts. As for modern industries providing "equally large employment" with proper investment and modern technique, the textile industry is a standing monument. Fifty years of growth has resulted in employment for 7,50,000 persons at the cost of the means of livelihood of 20 times that number of spinners and weavers in the countryside. Twenty times $7\frac{1}{2}$ may not be a "large level of employment" for Shri Jain for whom $7\frac{1}{2}$ is "equally large employment" !

Shri Jain talks about the "increasing standard of living," and of "subsidies" to cottage industries. May we in all humility ask this Captain of Industry and Trade what his conception of "increasing standard of living" is ? Does it consist in the conversion of lakhs into crores ? Or does it consist in a higher purchasing power of people who have hardly any at all ? Shantiprasadji, have a look at the National Sample Survey (7th round) for a little

education. See what it reveals:

1) 142.26 lakhs of persons in the country live on less than 3 annas a day.

2) 475.11 lakhs live on less than 6 annas a day,

3) 1091.98 lakhs live on less than 10 annas a day, and

4) 712.01 lakhs are living on less than Re. 1 a day.

If 142.26 lakhs add 5 to 9 annas a day to their income, does it not help to increase their standard of living ? If 475.11 lakhs are enabled to add 2 annas to 6 annas a day, will they not have a better standard ? That is the logic of the Ambar Charkha.

Now about "subsidy". Sethji, turn the searchlight within yourself. Cite the example of one large-scale industry in this country which has not been built up and sustained by way of protective duties, import controls and other direct and indirect subsidies even now. Before calling the kettle black, please look at the pot itself.

x x x

Shri H. D. Rajah, M. P. presiding over a meeting organized by the Libertarian Social Institute of Madras, characterized the Ambar Charkha scheme as a pre-election stunt.

What ? Stunt, did he say ? Well ! He is after all a libertarian.

x x x

Shri S. Ramanathan, addressing the same meeting, is reported to have said that, while the Ambar Charkha scheme is still in the experimental stage, crores of rupees are being spent on it and declared that the scheme of Ambar Charkha is a "mad idea".

Mad ! The idea or the man ? Where did he get his facts about the crores of rupees ? No wonder, he, too, is a libertarian.

Na'na.

Beware of

The Rice You Eat !

Ask for

Hand-pounded Rice

which

Builds Your Body

And

Feeds Millions In Villages

IT MAKES KHADI WEAR LONGER

(Contributed)

"It is difficult to say what would be the future of Khadi, say, ten years hence. A group of people always use Khadi irrespective of its cost. But if the larger section of the people were to be made Khadi-users, Khadi should be made an economic proposition. **It should be cheap.** That could be achieved by subsidy, but subsidy could help an industry to the extent of enabling it to stand on its own legs. **Subsidy could not last for ever.** India could not close her eyes to the vast and very very quick technological improvements in the field of industry."

–JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

Khadi is hand-spun and hand-woven cloth. In money value it will always be costlier than mill cloth. But in actual use it can be made an economic proposition. This is by increasing the durability of Khadi. If khadi could give longer service than what it does at present, it would prove cheaper to the user and he will have the satisfaction of getting a better and more durable article. Experiments have been carried out in this direction and after several tests—mechanical and actual wear tests—for the past two years, a special process has been evolved which has established that Khadi could be made more durable at little extra cost. The starting point in the approach to the problem of resistance was the observed fact that, in almost every case, a fabric, when new, is sufficiently strong to withstand a considerable degree of tractive strain before tearing. This led the researchers to look elsewhere for the basic cause of wear and to prove by controlled experiments that it lay in the progressive weakening of the fibres by mutual friction, an action intensified by the normal process of washing and cleaning.

Fabric And Friction

Fabrics are very liable to friction on account of their construction. Apart from the effects of rubbing on the weave of the fabric, the basic cause of wear is the effects of friction on the threads or yarn of which the fabric is woven. These threads are not single strands, but bundles of separate fibres held together by the twist given to them in the spinning process. Not only are the fibres in the yarn separate, they are also short which makes them still more

vulnerable to rubbing. Friction across the fibres has the natural tendency to tear the fibres apart, causing the yarn to fray and ultimately give way. The solution was, therefore, to be found in increasing the resistance of the fibre to attrition rather than tractive strain. An illuminating analogy presented itself. The soft asphalt used for the surfacing of roads would, by itself, wear out very soon without the stones. These stones are of exceptional hardness—usually quartz (silica) or flint—and it is this that enables asphalt to withstand the constant passage of traffic. This fact suggested the application of similar principle in the textile field. Eventually this process was perfected, whereby ultra-microscopic particles of silica are precipitated into the structure of the fibre and fixed there by a plastic material and other chemicals forming an insoluble and permanent reinforcement.

The Effect

The fundamental effect of this process, and therefore its primary purpose, is to prolong the life of textiles. It is applicable to all fabrics, such as, COTTON, WOOLLEN and SILK. Although between them there is an inevitable variation in the degree of reinforcement possible, the resulting wear-resistance is never less than three times as great as that of a similar unprocessed material,

The governing factor in the success of this process is the principle of augmenting the resistance of the individual fibre to frictional wear. At the same time the tensile strength of yarn or cloth is also increased, in some instance by as much as 20% and is maintained even after long use.

Laundry Tests

An interesting series of practical tests with the processed and unprocessed fabrics have been carried out over a year by a laundry whose business necessitates the daily washing of thousands of bed-linen, table cloth, napkins etc. They reveal beyond doubt the superior resistance of the processed materials to the damaging processes involved in laundering—rubbing, pulling, wringing, besides sudden changes of temperature and chemical action. Although these tests do not provide sufficient data for an accurate evaluation of extended life, their general conclusions have been confirmed in numerous laboratories, both official and private.

Scientific Data

The development of precision apparatus for the reproduction of condition likely to be encountered by fibres and fabrics and the measurement of their resistance, has made it possible to establish scientifically the effectiveness of this process. Of particular importance for this purpose is the Abrasi-meter Pinte, from which the comparative figures for the table below have been derived :

	Unprocessed		Processed
Khadi cloth worn out at	260	rubs	8,950
Drill Khaki ,, ,, ,,	218	,,	3,964
Sheeting ,, ,, ,,	277	,,	3,500
Long cloth ,, ,, ,,	200	,,	2,100
Dosuti scoured ,, ,,	139	,,	1,296

The ratio will vary with different types and qualities of cloth and, therefore, it is advisable to test each type separately.

Trial After Treatment

Another test was carried out on 15-6-55 at the laboratory of the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (Inspection Wing) at New Delhi. After a thorough trial by testing several samples in their laboratory, they strongly recommended adoption of this process "in the interest of Khadi." In a letter on the subject Shri Randhir Singh says:

"With a view to conduct practical tests, 5 samples of Khadi of the following qualities, i. e.

1. Sheeting cloth Khadi,
2. Dosuti Khadi Thin Bleached,
3. Dosuti Khadi Thick Bleached,
4. Dosuti Khadi Thick Blue, and
5. Dosuti Khadi Thick Khaki,

were treated in my presence. The usual procedure for testing was to use similar material of strips to rub against each other in the machine, but, in order to create similar testing conditions for both treated and untreated material, one strip of Duck Cotton was introduced as any abrasive surface, i. e. the treated and untreated material would be rubbed under the same conditions. The treated samples were washed with boiling water and soap to find if the treatment stands washing. The test results obtained in my presence on the above 5 samples are given below:

Sample No.	Description	Treated	Treated material tested after washing in boiling water & soap	Untreated
115/Kh.	Sheeting Cloth Khadi.	958	1,272	101/117
108/Kh.	Dosuti Khadi Thin Bleached	1044	668	161
168/Kh.	Dosuti Khadi Thick ,,	1844	1,785	112/125
238/Kh.	Dosuti Khadi Thick Blue	1037	813	180
237/Kh.	Dosuti Khadi Thick Khaki.	1174	1,054	114

From these results it is evident that the treatment considerably increases the abrasive resistance of the cloth. This means, the treated Khadi will give 4 to 5 times service when compared to untreated Khadi. The process is considered very advantageous, as it will eliminate the usual objection and deficiency reported about the serviceability of Khadi. The process is applicable on Jiggers and Padding Mangles and can be taken up with the centres undertaking dyeing work at present. It is suggested that the centres handling greater bulk in Khadi may be equipped with suitable padding machines. The process can also be applied by hand, but the result would not be so uniform as would be obtained on padding mangle.

Some tests were also carried out on mill made material with a view to find the comparative figures obtained with the treatment. The three samples taken for testing were the Drill Khaki, Drill Blue and Dosuti Scoured in treated and untreated condition. The results are given below:

Sample No.	Description	Treated	Untreated.
4972/Tex	Drill Mineral Khaki Mill made	3,964	218/23
344/Tex.	Drill Blue Mill made	4,200	736
5726/Tex.	Dosuti Scoured Mill made	1,296	139

It is observed that although the untreated figures of Khadi are comparatively low as compared to the untreated figures of mill made cloth, yet the treated figures of Khadi are far above the untreated figures of the mill made cloth. That means, the treated Khadi will compare very well with the mill made varieties now being used for Government requirements as regards its serviceability. It is advised that in the interests of Khadi, this process may be adopted with a view to increase the serviceability of the material and to eliminate the chances of complaints from the consignee's end."

The All India Khadi and Village Industries Board has recommended to all Khadi-producing centres to adopt this process. The processed Khadi will be stamped and sold under the label of "KHAS-KHADI" which will provide for the buyer and user an assurance that it has undergone a special treatment under controlled conditions which makes it more durable.

The Process

The KHAS-KHADI Process and Instructions for Industrial Treatment are giving below :

Siotex, used for 'KHAS-KHADI' process, is a homogeneous emulsionised paste which, after dilution in twenty times its weight of soft water, provides stable acqueous solution which is

neither poisonous nor inflamable. Its application considerably increases the wear-resisting properties of fabrics and the effect is a permanent one, since the treatment is not eliminated by successive washings. The application is very simple and no special equipment is required for this process which is divided into three stages :

(a) Immersion in the Siotex solution

(b) Immersion in a precipitation bath

(c) Fixing by drying.

I. Preliminary Recommendations:

(a) Bleached and dyed fabrics to be treated must be clean, *dry* and free from any size or finish.

(b) The sizing must be removed from all *unbleached* fabrics before the treatment is applied.

(c) Any trace of acid (resulting either from dyeing or other causes) must be removed before the treatment with Siotex, which is an alkaline solution. Otherwise the treatment would have no effect, since the Siotex would be precipitated on to the acid surface of the fabric, instead of penetrating to the core of the fibre.

(d) The treatment must be applied *before* any finishing process'.

(e) Mercerisation, Sanforisation or any crease-resisting treatment is in no way incompatible with the Forcylor process but *must* in all cases be carried out *after* it.

(f) **Printed Fabrics**. Printing may be done after the Forcylor process. Indeed it has been observed that the design is then far more distinct.

(g) Do not use any wetting agent etc. during the process.

II. First Operation :

A-Preparation of Siotex bath

1. The Siotex should be diluted with twenty times its weight of soft water. The latter should at first be added gradually and should be at a temperature of about 120/140° F. Whilst adding the water, the solution should be well stirred to make it homogeneous and avoid lumps. High speed mixers should not be used.

2. When dilution is complete, the solution should be filtered throughout.

3. The resulting solution should have a pH of between 9 and 10.

B-Impregnation of the fabric :-

1. **Equipment :** Padding Mangle or Dye Jigger for fabrics which can be treated when stretched to their full width. When a Padding Mangle is used, measures should be taken to ensure that penetration to the core of the fibre is complete. Some simple additional equipment may be required.

2. **Temperature :** The solution should be kept at a temperature of 120/40° F., unless non-fast dyes have been used,

in which case a lower temperature is indicated.

3. **Duration of immersion** : This will vary with the type of fabric, but complete penetration to the core of fibre is essential. After the first bath and after wringing, a fabric should have absorbed the solution upto about 80% of its own weight, i. e. a fabric originally weighing 1 lb. when dry, should weigh 1 lb. 13 oz. wet.

III. Second Operation :

A–Preparation of Precipitation bath:

To 100 litres cold water (22 gallons), add 500 grms. Calcium Chloride (1 lb. $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz.) 1 litre Formaldehyde ($1\frac{3}{4}$ pints) 1 litre Acetic Acid ($1\frac{3}{4}$ pints)	or add 500 grms. Calcium Chloride, 1 litre Acid Formic

This solution should have 3 pH.

The pH value will vary according to the concentration of acid and, therefore, it should be adjusted at 3 pH. The acid pH of this bath must be checked continually since the alkaline particles carried by the fabric immersed in the Siotex bath, progressively neutralise this precipitation bath. The pH must be maintained at 3 by adding acetic acid as required. After a certain amount of use this second bath will lose its efficacy and, therefore, must be replaced. In general it may be suggested that a bath should be discarded and a new one prepared after its own weight in fabric has been passed through it.

B–Immersion of fabric :

Not more than half an hour after completion of the first operation, the fabric in wet condition should be immersed in this precipitation bath which should be cold, using identical equipment to that used for the first bath.

IV. Third Operation :

Drying. The fabric should then be dried *completely* by normal drying equipment at a heat not exceeding 100° C.

The fabric must *not* be rinsed.

V. Checking the baths :

Before starting this treatment, it is essential to check the precipitating action of the process in the following manner :

(a) Pour into a test tube some of the liquid from the first bath.

(b) Add an equal quantity of liquid from the second bath.

(c) Invert the test tube in order to mix the two liguids, one being alkaline and the other acid.

Instantaneous coagulation (precipitation) should occur.

VI. First treatment :

In every dye works, the first treatment must be carried out in the presence of technicians.

VII. Checking the Treatment :

A sample of treated and untreated fabric should be taken from each bath submitted to the "KHAS-KHADI" Process and the increase of wear-resistance should be checked.

VIII. Storage :

Siotex should be stored in a cool, dry and dark place and away from strong light. Siotex - whole or diluted - should be placed in a container free of acid.

ALL INDIA KHADI & VILLAGE INDUSTRIES BOARD

Central Government Building, 3rd Floor,
101, Queen's Road, BOMBAY-1.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

ENGLISH

1.*Second Five Year Plan (Khadi & V. I.)	...	Rs. 5 0 0
2. Planning for Full Employment	....	Rs. 1 8 0
3.*Annual Report 1953-54	...	Rs. 1 0 0
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20. Report of Training Survey Committee (1953-54)	...	Rs. 0 4 0
21. Khadi-Gramodyog (Monthly) English Annual Subscription	...	Rs. 2 8 0
22 Khadi-Gramodyog (Monthly) Hindi Annual Subscription	....	Rs. 2 8 0

* These are out of stock.

VILLAGE OIL INDUSTRY IN MADHYA BHARAT

There are about 8,000 teli families in Madhya Bharat. Most of them have been displaced by the incursion of oil mills. Most of the edible oil seeds produced in the villages are cornered by the oil mill owners by paying higher prices. The result is that *telis* get no oil seeds to carry on their traditional occupation. Even the co-operatives of the *telis* are at a disadvantage. A co-operative would require a capital of about Rs. 15,000 to hold a stock of oil seeds for running a unit of two ghanis. There are not many co-operatives of telis which can afford a capital of Rs. 15,000 on their own.

The Madhya Bharat Khadi and Village Industries Board investigated the problem and decided to execute programmes for the reorganisation of the village oil industry. The Board started three oil pressing centres—one each at Gohad, Karera and Jora–with a view to supplying pure and fresh oil to the public. Later, seven more pressing centres were added one each at Gwalior, Guna, Shajapur, Dewas, Ujjain, Dhar and Mandsaur. Each of these centres has been assigned the work of manufacturing 30 improved ghanis in a year and installing them in the surrounding villages. These centres will also act as demonstration centres. So far, through the efforts of the Board more than 300 ghanis have been installed, rehabilitating an equal number of *teli* families. The Board has arrangements to train organisers and carpenters.

A difficulty that was felt was the need for a ghani that could be easily transported and the manufacture of which was relatively easier. Hitherto Madhya Bharat used to make cement ghanis. These ghanis were not easily portable. After considerable experiments, it was found that the Ujjain type provided a suitable type that could be introduced. The improved Ujjain iron mortar ghani is well-shaped, durable and efficient in working. This ghani can be easily transported from one place to another on bullock cart. It has got five holes at the bottom of the mortar, through which iron bars can pass and be fixed with cement mould. It can be separated any time after installation. This ghani can be operated with one bullock and crush fifty to sixty seers of oil seeds like gingelly, groundnut, mustard, rameli and mahuwa per day. Further experiments have resulted in the evolution of a hand-ghani worked by hand. A boy of fifteen years of age can conveniently work on this hand-ghani

and crush one seer of gingelly in 30 to 40 minutes. The hand-ghani was demonstrated in the Gwalior Exhibition and at the All India Congress Exhibition at Amritsar. The demand for hand-ghanis is increasing. They may be introduced among the Adivasi population in the State with great advantage.

The total population of Adivasis in Madhya Bharat is 9½ lakhs. The telis amongst them are not aware of the utility of the improved ghani. The Bhils and the Bhilalas collect Mahuwa flowers and Mahuwa seeds in the summer and sell them as forest produce in the market nearby. This gives them employment for two months. The Mahuwa seeds are known as *toli*. One man is able to collect about 10 *chowki* or 4 seers of oil seeds per day. The seeds collected are dried and sold in the market at a very low price, varying from 4 to 8 annas a chowki. At best an Adivasi gets about Rs. 5 a maund or an average of Re. 1 per day during the two months.

The Adivasis also preserve a certain portion of the collected oil seeds for self-consumption. The dried oil seeds are powdered in a mortar and pestle (the same as is used in hand-pounding of rice). The powdered oil seeds are sieved. The process is repeated till the whole quantity is converted into fine powder. This work is done by the Bhil women as part-time job. A Bhil woman working for 8 hours a day powders one maund of oil seeds. This *toli* seed powder is pressed in a tubular gunny bag and steamed by being held, tied to two poles, just at the opening of an earthen vessel containing boiling water. The tubular gunny bag with the steamed powder is then pressed with the help of a clamp or by hand-press for the extraction of the oil.

Oil extraction work is done by men. One man is able to finish one charge of four seers in ten minutes and extract 1 seer of oil. A rough estimate of the cost of this type of extraction is as under:

Charges for collection of One maund of oil seeds	Re. 1-0-0
Charges for powdering	,, 1-0-0
Charges for steaming and extraction	,, 1-0-0
	Rs. 3-0-0

Thus, a Bhil family gets oil at the rate of 10 annas a seer or even less. The oil cake of the *toli* seeds is preserved for the rainy season and used as fuel.

The Board has started its own work amongst the Bhils. Recently the Board took part in the Alirajpur Exhibition for the purpose of demonstrating the working of improved Wardha Ghani to the Bhils. Thousands of Bhils came and evinced keen interest in the working of improved ghani.—(From a News Letter of the Madhya Bharat Khadi and Village Industries Board).

LIBERAL GRANTS TO KERALA

When Shri Vaikunth L. Mehta, Chairman of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board, visited Trichur in connection with the recent Khadi and Village Industries Exhibition there, he had occasion to meet Constructive Workers and visit selected areas and centres of production in the Travancore-Cochin State. During the discussions, inquiries were made about the assistance in various forms which the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board is extending to institutions engaged in carrying out its programmes in the State.

How the Board Functions

It should be made clear at the outset that the Board does not, save in very exceptional circumstances, directly undertake the organization and execution for its programmes. The agencies through which it functions in the field, are the State Khadi and Village Industries Boards, Registered Institutions and Co-operative Societies. Ordinarily allotments are made to States through the State Khadi and Village Industries Boards where these Boards are Statutory bodies or to the State Governments on the basis of the programmes submitted by the non-statutory State Boards. The State Governments, in turn, disburse the amounts on the advice of these Boards. In addition to the help rendered through the State Boards, the All India Board recognizes institutions which have been doing constructive work under the aegis of the Sarva Seva Sangh. Other instiutions registered as charitable trusts and co-operative societies approved by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies are also directly helped by the Board by advancing loans and grants. These loans and grants are given after examining the programmes and budgets that these institutions and societies forward to the Board.

In Kerala there are numerous organisations, small and big, engaged in the prosecution of the constructive programme with particular emphasis on Khadi work. The Board holds these associations in great esteem and has, from time to time, extended such help as they needed. During the three years of working of the Board, institutions in Kerala including Malabar have received a total financial assistance of Rs. 9,98,920-0-0 of which Rs. 5,51,717-8-0 are loans and Rs. 4,47,202-8-0 constitute subsidies and grants.

Industries Aided

These amounts have been placed at the disposal of 25 different institutions and societies for the development of the following industries:

1. Village Oil Industry,
2. Soap-making with Non-edible Oils,
3. Intensive Area Scheme,
4. Hand-made Paper Industry,
5. Cottage Match Industry,
6. Village Pottery Industry,
7. Bee-keeping Industry,
8. Hand-pounding of Rice Industry,
9. Palm Gur Industry, and
10. Leather Industry.

The following statement will show the financial assistance given against each industry:

Name of Industry	53-54 (Gr.)	54-55		55-56		Grand Total	
		Grants	Loans	Grants	Loans	Grants	Loans
Soap-making		13,062.8	28062.8	35300	73,500	48362.8	101562.8
Palm Gur		7,740	4040	107000	188,400	114740	192440
Leather		2,000	2720	12800	17,520	14800	20240
Village Oil		13,000	4000	6650	12,000	19650	16000
Bee-keeping	11,150	14,400	—	18875	22,500	44425	22500
Pottery		—	—	14375	19,000	14375	19000
Intensive Area		56,750	12000	64000	25,000	120750	37000
Hand-made Paper		500	5225	8400	7,500	8900	12725
Hand-pounding of Rice		—	14250	—	24,200	—	38450
Cattage Match		—	—	61200	91,800	61200	91800
	11,150	107452.8	70297.8	328600	481420	447202.8	551717.8
Total Loans and Grants							9,98,920

Khadi Work

In addition to the above financial assistance, separate allotments and aids have been made for the promotion of Khadi work in Kerala. On this account a sum of Rs. 2,93,500 has been given as loans and another sum of Rs. 2,12,678-14-0 has been given as grants, subsidies and rebates.

Thus it will be found that between April 1953 and April 1956 the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board has given an aggregate sum of Rs. 15,05,098-14-0 for the working out of its programme in the Kerala area.

It may be mentioned here that, in addition to these, where technical guidance has been sought or was found necessary, the All India Khadi Board has placed at the disposal of several institutions trained technical personnel.

It may also be mentioned here that, there is no limit to which the Board's assistance under its several schemes can be availed of by the people of

Kerala. The only limitation is their capacity to absorb aids by expanding their organizational and field activities.

Ambar Charkha

With regard to the allocation of Ambar Charkhas to Kerala, there appears to be some misconception. The allocation was not made by the All India Board. It was what the representatives from Kerala had themselves demanded at the Conference of State Boards and Institutions held in Poona in August, 1955. Indeed the Board will be happy to allot more of these Charkhas to Kerala, provided there is the requisite organization for the successful operation of a bigger Ambar Charkha programme in the area.

The All India Khadi and Village Industries Board appreciates the enthusiasm and the eagerness of the people of Kerala in regard to its programme and wishes to assure them of its complete co-operation with them in the speedy and efficient execution of its programmes in that part of the country. Where the appropriate type of institutions and workers are available and schemes are forwarded to the Board for its examination, every possible help will be extended to them for approved programmes.

Information Centre

It is to be hoped that the institutions receiving aid from the Board in Kerala would set up an Information Centre which would convey to the public news about their own activities and the several kinds of aids they are receiving from the Government and the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board. Such an Information Centre will be useful in developing wider contacts with the people and will facilitate expansion of the activities of these institutions and stimulate the formation of new ones.

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MODERNISATION OF COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

(By : M. B. *Rao*)

There is today a large volume of influential opinion in the country which advocates mechanisation and the use of power in village industries. There is also an equally powerful opinion which does not look with favour on this aspect of the development of village industries. There is a third view which admits the need for improvement in the techniques and tools employed in these industries, but holds that the use of power and other mechanized motivation should be gradual and conform to a phased programme spread over a period of time. In this article is presented lucidly the case for mechanization of village industries. Although the views of the contributor do not represent the views of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board, it is published with the object of stimulating public discussion of this important question. Readers are requested to participate in this discussion and communicate to us their views on the matter. **—Editor.**

A stage has been reached in the Development Plans of the country when the problem of modernisation of Cottage Industries presses itself to the forefront for urgent attention. The Village and Small Scale Industries (Second Five Year Plan) Committee have categorically stated in their Report that there is no opposition as such to the idea of modernising techniques in the village industries sector. But the process must not affect human welfare. In fact, the Committee have laid down certain criteria for the installation of machines in that sector. According to them, the equipment should be easy of operation, simple and sturdy of construction, cheap in cost and maintenance and capable of being easily repaired locally. In the light of rapid advance of modern industrial technology and research in India, it is not very difficult to design and produce equipment which conforms to all the requirements laid down by the Committee.

Objective Conditions

That apart, the conditions in the country have brought about a revolutionary change in the lives and thinking of the people to such an extent as to call for a fresh approach to the entire problem of mechanisation and decentralisation. Not only do all sections in the country want Planning, but they also want the Plans to be up-to-date and such as would ensure growth of economic prosperity at a very fast pace and on a just basis. Unless the efforts and the results of Developmental Planning are commensurate, at least to a reasonable extent, with the aspirations of the people, and unless this aspect is kept in the forefront in evaluating the urgency of the problem of modernising cottage industries, it might be that sudden difficulties would be met with when the programmes in this Sector come to be executed on traditional lines.

From the statistics published at the end of the voluminous publication of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board, "Second Five Year Plan for

Khadi and Village Industries," one can obtain a glimpse of the potentialities of the programme. The per capita outlay, per capita output and per capita income in 12 cottage industries are reproduced below for ready reference :

Industry	Per Capita Outlay Rs.	Per Capita Output Rs.	Per Capita Income Rs.
Khadi			
Cotton	370.00	1107.08	789.25
Woollen	1404.19	3844.96	1024.42
Hand-pounding	322.77	13915.25	1399.94
Village Oil	918.98	5072.92	2003.41
Gur and Khandsari	800.72	13058.43	1204.12
Village Leather	1799.17	6477.63	962.00
Cottage Match	239.49	2751.35	786.74
Soap	413.92	1152.70	831.46
Handmade Paper	1113.40	4389.58	600.00
Palm Gur	575.14	859.47	682.11
Bee-keeping	474.94	174.19	173.16
Village Pottery	181.38	126.00	75.63

What strikes one forcefully in these figures is the utter static character of both output and income. The per capita output being taken as the optimum, there is no chance of increasing the per capita income by, say, doubling the per capita outlay. It is this static element in the economics of traditional cottage industries, which has been responsible for conditions of stagnant poverty in the past, and which should now cause serious concern to any one who plans to bring about an environment of steadily expanding prosperity under existing techniques in this Sector. No doubt there are millions of unemployed and under-employed people and their wide-spread employment even along the traditional lines would narrow the boundaries of poverty to a considerable extent. Nevertheless one cannot eliminate the basically rigid and static position under which the output would always be limited to the extent of one man's physical capacity, no matter what the increase in capital applied may be. Nor is this a growing capacity always. The physical energies of workers will gradually fall after a certain age and around 40 or 45 years, though otherwise fit and experienced, they will not have the same stamina as they had but a few years earlier. If, in that condition, they endeavour to obtain the optimal level of production in order to maintain the level of their usual earnings, it would only mean that their drudgery would be intensified at a time when they ought to enjoy some leisure. The industries being labour-intensive it would not be possible for them to make up for deficiency in energy by means of their acquired skill and knowledge. Here the

problem becomes intensely human and the only means of solving it would be by supplying the necessary power and mechanisation as aids to their own training and intelligence.

The Other Aspect

That is one aspect of the problem. There is another which merits attention. It has been already seen that the per capita income would remain more or less static. In the case of several industries, the income does not average even Rs.100 a month. Besides the pressure of increasing population side by side with the growing size of individual families, probable rise in price levels, and increasing tempo of public expenditure which is expected to put more money in the hands of the people with consequent growth of demand for consumer goods,—all these factors in their cumulative effect may lead to the following possibilities:

1. A gradual or even rapid fall in real incomes,
2. A growing dissatisfaction against current levels of earnings in a probable inflationary environment,
3. A search for better labour markets and diversion of half-trained producers to more remunerative kinds of work,
4. As a result of such diversion, an interruption in the Production Programmes with likely repercussions on the supply of consumer goods which must, therefore, be produced by the factory sector instead.

Thus the very purpose of organising cottage industries on a decentralised base may be threatened with failure. The older and the more senile will remain at work in this sector, but they cannot produce all the requirements of the markets which at the moment promise potentialities of vast expansion if they are properly developed. Needless to say, the final objective of replacing factory industries by decentralised units will be retarded and put off to the extent that modernisation is delayed and postponed for whatever reason, and to that extent, concentration of wealth and consequent disparities in incomes will be maintained and prolonged.

The Human Factor

These are some of the factors which impart urgency to the problem and its satisfactory solution.

On the other hand, important observers who have been actively working in the field feel that the people are very much backward in the remote hinterland far and away from the din and bustle of modern civilisation. They remain lethargic and their intelligence remains dormant. In such cases, cottage industries only are likely, to be of any utility. There is no gainsaying this important fact. There are, no doubt, several areas which are difficult of access and are yet to be opened up to the world around.

There are also certain classes of people who might find it difficult to settle down to any regular and systematic work of the type that cottage industries offer as a whole-time proposition. From such considerations, it would, of course, appear reasonable and correct to draw the conclusion that people so much backward, unaccustomed to sustained work, without education and with all the defects that ignorance superimposes upon them, are naturally unfit to run or own any modern industrial equipment. It would, therefore, be necessary to start almost from scratch where near primitive conditions are obtained.

At the same time, it would not be out of place to state the other aspect of the situation. It is more than probable that once people understand the problems of poverty and its eradication, it will be only a matter of a few months for them to get themselves trained with almost any type of modern equipment provided they are given the opportunities to handle it. This is the lesson one could legitimately draw from the progress of industrialisation in India. Large-scale industries located in the heart of raw materials areas have been dependent upon local labour to a large extent. In several cases, modern factories have been located in obscure, hilly and jungle tracts and they employ large numbers of tribal people. Even women folk mind machines suited to their work which is naturally of a light type. And most of these machines are power-driven. On the whole, therefore, it would be reasonable to assume that, after making full allowance for the backwardness and ignorance of large numbers of people over large areas, the human factor may not, after all pose such a serious problem in the way of rapid modernisation and mechanisation of cottage industries.

Man versus Machine

The main issue, therefore, is how far Man can work the Machine without being enslaved by it and what measures are needed to ensure that he remains Master always. Here it should be noted that decentralisation of large-scale industry must not involve a recession of techniques and for obvious reasons all backward techniques must be brought upto full operational efficiency as found in the modern industrial sector. The phasing of a suitable programme for modernising the decentralised sector may progressively evolve somewhat on the following lines :

First, the present quantum of output estimated per capita by hand or manual labour would be transferred to the machine. In the initial stages the target of production need be no more than just that. There may be some additional capacity built into the machine, but that can lie idle as a reserve for sometime in the very near future. The need for this sort of limitation is explained later. The first step will be confined to the elimination of drudgery and to the ensuring of some leisure to the rural producer. Even this elementary

mechanisation will provide added inducement towards diversification of employment away from land. In the first stage, therefore, we shall have reached the same position with the help of the machine as would have been reached with hand-production ; output and earnings remain the same in both cases. But the difficulties arising out of drudgery and old age will largely disappear. Production would be better sustained. And there will undoubtedly be a significant reduction in cost as the capacity is steadily increased to the maximum for each machine. Side by side, intensive research into all aspects of mechanisation would be going on from the very start. Total output, its quality and its flaws would be sufficiently known and defects would be rectified wherever found. After trials and experimentation, a stability would be reached. This period may not extend beyond a year from the date of installing the machines.

In the second phase, after a position of stability and smooth working is attained, the available additional capacity of the decentralised machines would be brought to full utilisation. If a production lag also develops in the large-scale industries by virtue of likely imposition of ceilings on their capacity, the cottage machines would be able to undertake additional production to cope with demand, turning out goods as near to quality of factory goods as possible, and at comparable prices. Therein lies the real hope for Cottage Industries.

In the third phase, the Cottage Industry will have so well established itself that it would be able to replace factory units by its own decentralised co-operatives as and when each large scale unit goes out of commission.

Where Are The Machines?

Here arises the crucial question: Where are the machines? Millions of voices will very soon ask the question and a satisfactory answer must be provided for obvious reasons. At the back of the question lies an immense problem. Simply stated, the Cottage Industries will have no chance of existence in any definable shape unless they are fully modernised. The minimum that could be expected from the main objectives of Planning is to ensure that prosperity reaches down to the lowest levels of the population from whom the village producers are drawn. For their very survival under present conditions, they must produce goods of quality at an economic cost so as to match the purchasing power of vast numbers of consumers in the rural areas. Quality and significant reduction of cost could be secured only through modern techniques of production. Thus the machine becomes part of the very foundations on which a strong and prosperous cottage industry could be built up. As "machines to produce machines" are to be produced in the Public Sector, the problem raises major issues of policy. For, other questions arise such as, "what types of

machines will the Public Sector produce? Have the Planners laid down any Plans for producing millions of machines for the cottage industries? Have they laid down any programme for the progressive mechanisation of the traditional sector?" and so on. These questions must be disposed of satisfactorily if the social concepts underlying the present series of Plans are to find a true expression when transformed into practical shape. The future of the cottage industries and the solution of unemployment and under-employment problems through them thus hang by the thread of machanisation. The urgency of the problem appears to be developing much faster than what Prof. Mahalanobis visualised in his Memorandum of March 1955. According to him, "once mass unemloyment has gone, the aim would be to provide cheap power and small machines to the house-hold sector and hand-industries to increase productivity per worker and hence the total national product. At this stage the factory production of consumer goods would also be increased." In the light of the conditions indicated in this article, it appears that the cottage machine and the solution of mass unemployment are inseparable factors. There could be no liquidation of mass unemployment unless the house-hold industries are mechanised, so that it would have been more appropriate if the Professor said, he would provide electric or other power and small machines to the extent possible year by year, so that the marketable surplus of consumer goods (to which he refers in his memorandum) could be really marketable.

Be that as it may, it would be impossible to prolong the present state of uncertainty prevailing in the cottage industries sector arising out of the lack of any immediate prospect of mechanisation. The economic stresses and strains to which the under-privileged sections of society would be increasingly subjected under a rising tempo of economic development cannot be resolved except by positive measures for transferring increasing doses of wealth to those who are in greatest need. The imperative necessity of drawing up suitable Plans for modernising the cottage industries and for executing part of them during the Second Plan period itself thus becomes apparent.

Three Factors

The process of evolution of the decentralised sector appears to be closely connected with three basic factors, viz.

(a) phasing the programme for supply of machines and imparting the requisite training on a mass scale,

(b) supply of power or fuel and

(c) fixing a just and equitable quantum of output expected of each individual cottage producer or his family.

To examine all such issues more closely and take suitable decisions,

some fresh thinking will have to be done in terms of mechanising the present labour-intensive industries and not merely in terms of employment. The whole scheme of mechanisation will have to be thought out in advance and to give it definite direction and purpose, it should be co-related to the programme chalked out by the Village and Small Scale Industries Committee.

It is too true that there is no immediate possibility of introducing machines on a large scale. At the same time, one may not completely overlook the fact that, under the planned development of our economy, the whole position acquires a new dynamism and the result should not be that either too few achieve too much or too many achieve too little.

What matters most is the proper phasing of improvements in equipment and mechanisation according to well-defined stages so that the humblest worker could look forward with hope and expectation that one day, not very far off, he would be relieved of drudgery, that he would enjoy assured prosperity albeit in moderate doses, and that he would steadily acquire the necessary ability to take over the responsibilities of replacing the large-scale factories, by producing himself cheap and quality goods which would find acceptance at the hands of millions of consumers not very much above his own economic level.

Must Be Centrally Regulated

The phasing of such a programme must naturally be centrally decided and executed. This is important as experiments are going on in several directions and it is always possible to invent new machines which would render useful equipment obsolete and would give rise to disparities even at the humblest levels.

Power And Fuel

As regards supply of power, it is not necessary to wait until the whole of India or all the villages are electrified. Wherever electricity is available and to whatever limited extent, it should be made use of. In other places the possibility of utilising other fuels should be constantly examined. For example, if gas could be produced out of waste matter it should be done. Or kerosene and diesel oil could be used in some other places. Even the production of Power Alcohol out of molasses should be encouraged, notwithstanding initial high costs. In short, power must be regarded as something very much like water. If people do not get water, they do not sit moping. They will make every effort to find it. The same spirit should be evident in the all-out effort to find adequate motive power for the cottage machines.

Equitable Share in Production

The allocation of a just and equitable quantum of production per capita based on the over-all targets assumes greatest importance. In the initial stages, there should be no wide disparity between the output by manual

labour and output by machine. This ensures maximum diffusion of employment and would deploy the maximum available man-power at all places of production activity. Thus the framework of a decentralised modern cottage industry spread out all over the country would be brought into existence. Thereafter, as over-all targets of production increase, the per capita output would be uniformly raised so as to equate the targets.

In the process, care must be taken to see that no single producer obtains undue advantage over his next-door neighbour. The regulation of :

(a) the capacity of machine,

(b) the supply of electricity or fuel,

(c) the supply of raw materials, carried out through the mechanism of strong and efficient industrial co-operatives would guarantee a just and equitable share of earnings to all those who are willing to work in the decentralised sector.

This could be easily achieved through the establishment of community work centres as visualised in the Second Five Year Plan.

Opportunities for Educated Unemployed

Modernisation and expansion of the Cottage Sector, appear to offer wide scope of employment for large numbers of educated middle classes also. They may perhaps be more attracted to the idea of owning and running a machine at small initial cost with prospects of more remunerative earning in the long run.

In conclusion, it would only be fitting to recall the views of the Prime Minister expressed at the All India Farmers' Council at New Delhi on 3rd April, 1956. He observed :

"Small-scale and cottage industries should be given a fillip by producing the best implements and modern techniques for them to enable them to develop on the right lines".

EAT MORE AND MORE

HONEY

EXTRACTED THE MODERN WAY

HONEY BUILDS BODY AND BEAUTY

and

KILLS FATIGUE

(Contd. from Page 18)

There were instances of spinners producing 11 hanks of 40 counts in 8 hours. In Kerala 3 women spun $13\frac{1}{2}$ hanks each in 8 hours. One spinner produced 22 hanks in 2 days covering all processes from carding to yarn. He regretted that at a time when the potentiality of the Ambar Charkha was beyond doubt, there was no definite Government policy regarding the programme.

Shri Krishnadas Gandhi revealed that the Textile Technologist of *Atira* was fully satisfied with the performance of the Ambar Charkha, the evenness of the yarn and its tensile strength. He was also of the opinion that weavers would find no difficuity at all in weaving the Ambar yarn. Weaving tests also showed that in the weaving of 12 yards of cloth there was breakage only twice. In the Sabarmati Ashram a weaver wove 12 yards of cloth with the Ambar yarn in 8 hours. All these, he said, established the fact that the Ambar Charkha was efficient and the yarn produced on it was qualitatively comparable with mill yarn.

Technologist's View

Shri Shankarlal Banker was gratified at the reports from the different centres. An eminent textile technologist had assured him that the Ambar Charkha was very satisfactory and that there was no reason to doubt its potentiality. Shri Banker supported Shri Vichitra Narain Sharma's suggestion that an All India organisation should be set up to tackle the problems connected with the efficient working of Ambar Charkha programme. He wanted that every effort should be made to remove misunderstandings and misapprehensions among Government officials.

Shri Vaikunth L. Mehta at this stage intervened. He said there had been sufficient discussion on the Ambar Charkha. He summarized the view-points expressed during the discussion and read out the decisions passed on the different points of view. The resolution was unanimously adopted. (For text of Resolution see Khadi Gramodyog, April issue pages 11 to 14).

The Next Step

The Conference then considered the steps to be taken in regard to the Ambar Charkha programme.

Saranjam Needs

Shri Krishnadas Gandhi stated that, in view of the pressing demand from the public for the Ambar Charkha, it was necessary that the Ambar Charkha programme should be taken up in hand and proceeded without any delay. The Sarva Seva Sangh had considered this problem and had decided to continue the work of its Ambar Samiti till 30th April, 1957 and for that, had sanctioned the necessary programme. The Samiti would produce 2,000 Ambar Charkhas every month and also produce accessories like the iron parts etc. for 5,000 to 10,000 Charkhas in addition. He stated that they

have not got adequate numbers of Karyalayas to produce the requisite numbers of Charkhas. Arrangements should, therefore, be made immediately for manufacture of Ambar Charkhas in areas where there are no Saranjam Karyalayas also. The Saurashtra Khadi Board had set the example which could be emulated by other States. Along with such Saranjam Karyalayas, arrangements should also be made for the training of workers and spinners. He said that the Parishramalayas where at present only training was being given, should be turned into Training-cum-Production Centres. At this stage the discussions were adjourned till the next day.

Targets Decided

Resuming the discussions on 2-4-56, each region was asked to state the target it was prepared to accept and fulfill. Representatives from different regions undertook to manufacture and set working Ambar Charkhas as noted below during the first year :

Bengal	10,000
Bihar	10,000
Rajasthan	10,000
Punjab	15,000
Saurashtra including Kutch	10,000
Uttar Pradesh	20,000
Madhya Bharat	2,000
Hyderabad & Andhra	5,000
Gujarat	10,000
Tamilnad	25,000
Karnatak	2,500
Bombay	5,000
Maharashtra	500
Madhya Pradesh and other areas	6,250
Delhi	250
	1,31,500

On the basis of the figures mentioned above, it was expected that about 1, 20, 000 Charkhas could be set working.

During the discussion it was mentioned that for every 500 Charkhas there should be one Parishramalaya and that there should be 200 such Parishramalayas all over the country. The training of each worker would be for six months. Each worker would be paid Rs. 30 per month as scholarship and 10 per cent as tuition fee. Eight workers would have to be trained for each Parishramalaya. And after six months' training those workers who passed the test would be certified and would be taken up for work. Two workers' salaries would be paid by the Khadi Board.

Sarva Seva Sangh's Plan

Shri Sowniji stated that the Sarva Seva Sangh had decided to manufacture and introduce 15,000 Ambar Charkhas during the first year and in all one lakh of Charkhas during the five years. It had prepared a programme for the same on its own that would be carried out without any external assistance. The rate of wages for spinning on the Ambar Charkha should be at the minimum of 0-1-6 per hank. In addition to this, as an incentive 0-0-6 per hank might be given for some time. He also suggested that the rate of wages for weaving should

be reduced by 25 per cent. He stated that the cost of the Ambar Charkha Khadi would be less and the quality would be better.

Price Question

Shri Vichitra Narayan Sharma emphasized that the price of Ambar Khadi should be kept lower so that the advantage of its lower cost would go to consumers.

Shri Vithaldas Jerajaniji stated that if the public came to know that the Ambar Khadi would be cheaper and also stronger than the traditional Khadi, the sales of the traditional Khadi would drop immensely.

Shri Vichitra Narayan Sharma suggested that the rate for Ambar Khadi and the traditional Khadi should be so adjusted that the profit from Ambar Khadi could be diverted in reducing the price of traditional Khadi.

After some discussion it was decided that a Sub-Committee composed of Shri Vichitra Narayan Sharma, Shri Sowniji, Shri Jerajani, Shri Rameshwar Agarwal and Shri Hariram Chopra should go into the price question and report.

Discussion then proceeded with questions of devolution of certification powers to State Boards and the Ambar Charkha manufacturing programmes. In the meantime, the "Price Adjustment Committee" had met and considered the questions referred to it.

Shri Sowniji announced that the Price Adjustment Sub-Committee had met and considered the problem. After a general discussion it was unanimously resolved that the question of reducing the price of Khadi, the stages and rates of reduction and the time when it should be reduced should be considered after a survey of the ruling conditions which would be made by the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board.

The Central Organisation

Shri V. N. Sharma initiated discussion on the need for a Central Organisation under which all Khadi workers could unite. In this respect, a letter received from Shri Anna Saheb Sahasrabudhe wherein he had conveyed the opinion of Acharya Vinoba Bhave was read out.

After discussion it was resolved that a Sub-Committee with under-mentioned members be appointed to prepare the draft of the aims and objects as well as the constitution of the Central Organization.

The following members were nominated to serve on the Sub-Committee :

Shri Anna Saheb Sahasrabudhe.
,, Vichitra Narayan Sharma,
,, Dhotreji,
,, P. S. Kapadia,
,, D. V. Lele,
,, Dhwaja Prasad Sahu,
,, Bhimsen Vedalankar,
,, Krishnadas Gandhi,
,, Sowniji,

Shri Nrupendranath Bose,
,, M. S. Narayan Rao,
,, K. Kelappan,
,, Aiyamuthu,
,, Rameshwar Agarwal,
,, Dilkhush Diwanji,
,, R. Srinivasan, and
,, S. R. Vasavada (Convenor).

The Committee was asked to present its report to Shri Vaikunth L. Mehta and Shri Shankarlal Banker after whose perusal it would be placed before Khadi workers at Canchipuram towards the end of May, 1956.

Shri V. L. Mehta then summed up the proceedings of the two-day conference, after which the Conference came to an end.

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or in Patna
Visit

Khadi-Gramodyog Bhavan

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NEWS AND NOTES

CENTRAL AID FOR KHADI INDUSTRY

The Government of India has placed at the disposal of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board grants, totalling about Rs. 32,94,500 and a loan of Rs. 75,000 for the development of the Khadi industry, besides a sum of Rs. 35,00,000 on account of the 0-3-0 in the rupee rebate on sales of Khadi.

Of this amount, a sum of Rs. 15 lakhs is to be utilized for providing subsidies to institutions and centres on their increased production and retail sales of Khadi. A subsidy of two pice in a rupee will be given to all Khadi while another subsidy at the same rate will be given to institutions and centres on their production and/or retail sales of Khadi not exceeding Rs. 32,000 in a year. The second subsidy, which will be in addition to the first will be paid only to such institutions and centres which have shown an increase of 10 per cent in their production and/or retail sales of Khadi as compared with those of 1955.

A sum of Rs. 5,00,000 is for the implementation of the vastraswavalamban (cloth self-sufficiency) scheme during the current financial year. The amount is to be utilized for providing rebate on weaving charges incurred by the self-spinners and subsidy to recognized institutions for Khadi woven by them under the scheme.

A sum of Rs. 3,00,000 is for the expenditure on organizing peripatetic parties to train people in spinning and weaving. An expenditure of Rs. 1,00,000 has been sanctioned for payment of honorarium for promoting handspinning in all parts of the country. A sum of Rs. 79,200 is to be utilized for conducting classes in jails and childern's and beggars' reformatories during the current financial year.

The Board has been given a grant of Rs. 2, 50,000 for subsidizing half of the cost of implements and accessories required for the development of the Khadi industry through the Khaddar Bhandars and centres recognized by the Board. A loan of Rs. 75.000 and a grant of Rs. 1,50,000 are for the development of the Khadi industry on intensive basis. The amounts are to be distributed to co-operative societies and registered bodies for meeting the cost of construction of godowns at 15 centres in various parts of the country.

A grant of Rs. 1,50,000 has been

given for the revival of arts such as khes weaving, Sambalpur curtain weaving, kani shawl, fine yarn spinning, kalamkari printing and patola weaving.

For conducting research in Khadi, a sum of Rs. 1,50,000 has been placed at the disposal of the Board for being distributed to individuals or institutions.

A sum of Rs. 50,000 is to be utilized for payment of honorarium to workers engaged in the sale of Khadi under agency system. An expenditure of Rs. 35,250 has been sanctioned for training in Khadi salesmanship. A sum of Rs. 30,000 is for the purchase of Khadi samples and for processing them.

BIG BUSINESS STUNT EXPLODED

Shri Khandubhai Desai, Union Labour Minister, told the Commerce Graduates Association :

"It is wrong to say that production through decentralised small industries will mean subsidising small industries, while big industries need not be subsidised. Which of the big industries of the country today could claim that it has come of age without subsidy of some kind ? Big industries are subsidised in an indirect way. During the last 30 years, they have been having protection from the Government. Even today, if there is wagon shortage for raw materials or finished goods, it is the Railway Ministry that does an extra job.

Industrialists, versed in the nineteenth century school of economics, claim that they actually run the industries. But the fact is that the Government runs the industry by providing various facilities from the beginning to the last stage. The industrialist is only a sort of manager and should not oppose any help to the small-scale and cottage industries. There cannot be any one-way traffic in economy. In the colonial economy of the British times the cities have been producing and selling to the villages, but did not buy enough from the villages, with the result that the village was impoverished and there is lack of purchasing power. Without purchasing power among the rural masses, which form 80 per cent of the country's population, where will the production of the cities go ?

The social cost of unemployment is borne by the society as a whole. If the unemployed do not produce, they live on society. If through small industries they could produce even five annas worth of goods, that much production will be available for the country. Hence the Ambar Charkha is a useful implement."

INTENSIVE AREA SCHEME AT WORK

Mr. John Strachey, former British Secretary of State for war, visited the intensive area block run by the All India Khadi Board in Kamelpur village of Hassanpur tehsil of Moradabad district about 40 miles from Moradabad, early this month.

He was taken round to see the local

cottage industries at close quarter, the village school where children wore khaddar made with their own hands, and soap-making process and studied the economic possibilities of the industries. He was also shown various processes in the manufacture of the Ambar Charkha, printing of cloth and making of picnic carpets which have proved a popular article of export.

Mr. Strachey was impressed by the barter system which is in vogue in the village where all goods, including even 'biris' and matches, can be bought in exchange for yarn from the village shops.

Mr. Strachey addressing a public meeting said that he had learnt a lot of new things and felt happy that India was making great progress along her traditional lines without imitating the West slavishly and giving a new content and concept to things human, economic and moral.

(From a Press report).

CAMP AT ANAND

A camp for workers and agriculturists of the Intensive Areas of Gujarat was conducted from 26th December to 3rd January at the Institute of Agriculture, Anand. The object of the camp was to acquaint the workers and agriculturists with the latest technique and implements introduced in farming. A hundred persons who attended the camp for nine days, agreed to introduce all possible improvements in the method of their own cultivation and to work to popularise them in their areas. The camp was inaugurated by Shri Jugatram Dave, the well-known constructive worker of Gujarat.

The campers were divided tn seven groups and each group was taught separately. Both theoretical and practical aspects of the problem were explained at length.

During the period of the camp, visits were arranged to the new Dairy of the Kaira District Milk-Purchase Union, Vallabh Vidhyanagar and to Ranoli, a village famous for its work of the land improvement.

AMBAR TRAINING CLASS

A class for intensive training in Ambar Charkha was arranged in March 1956 at Titwa in Vedchhi Intensive Area to train Khadi workers of the Intensive Areas in Gujarat. Ten workers from 4 Intensive Areas attended the class which was inaugurated by Shri Jugatram Dave on 1-3-56. The class lasted for 1 month and 4 days. Out of the 10 workers who attended the class for the full period, two were women. The Sarva Seva Sangh had placed the services of Shri Krishnamachari as instructor. The trainees were able to learn much within the short time at their disposal. On an average each

one was able to prepare 4½ tolas of slivers in an hour and could spin 2 hanks of yarn per hour. The total output of yarn was 444 hanks.

GANDHI SEVA SADAN, PEROOR

The Gandhi Seva Sadan, Peroor, is one of the leading constructive work institutions of Kerala. It completed ten years of its working in March last. From scratch the organizers have built up a well-organized institutiion on Gandhian lines. Thanks to the untiring, selfless and devoted work done by Shri K. Kumaran, the founder-Secretary of the Institution, it is now carrying on almost all items of the Constructive Programme of Gandhiji.

To commemorate the tenth anniversary, the Sadan has published a Souvenir. The Sadan is conducting a Basic Training School, Khadi Vidyalaya aided by the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board and a Post Basic School, the first one of its kind in Kerala. Besides, the following activities are also being carried on :

1. Village Oil Industry,
2. Bee-keeping,
3. Mat-weaving,
4. Goseva,
5. Harijan Seva,
6. Hand-pounding of Rice Industry.

The Sadan is also making efforts to revive and revitalise the rural arts and crafts of Kerala. They are conducting a 'Kathakali' Vidyalaya, 'Kalari Payattu', 'Kolkali' etc.

The Sadan has received grants and loans from the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board to the tune of Rs. 8,500.

HYDERABAD NEWS

Mr. Douglas Ensminger, Chief of the Ford Foundation Team paid a visit to Rural Arts, Crafts and Industries Centre, Banswada, Dist. Nizambad on 19-2-1956. He appreciated the work of the centre and perticulary the manufacture of Gur from Palmyra trees. He recorded his appreciation in the following words :

"I am impressed to see people so enthusiastically learning new methods of working to earn a better living. This centre is certainly to be complemented for its best training progress and for the emphasis, it is placing on good quality. My best wishes to staff."

x x x

Wool Centres

With a view to provide carding and processing facilities to wool workers it is proposed to organise three wool processing and carding centres. Each centre will have a testing machine, a carding machine, a scribbler and a spinning frame of 60 spindles. This plant will be in a position to produce 120 lbs.

of 15s skin yarn per day on double shift. The scheme for one centre will cost Rs. 1,00,000 out of which Rs. 40,000 will represent the cost of the plant. 3 plants will cost Rs 3 lakhs.

x x x

Training Centre

As per the programme of the Education Department to give craft training to teachers, the Village Industries Training Centre, Mushirabad is giving special training of six months to 38 teachers in different sections of the Institute.

At present there are 100 students on the roll of the Institute, out of which 60 are stipendiary students who are paid Rs.12-13-9 each per month and remaining 40 are non-stipendiary. The duration of training in all trades is one year. Students who are under training are given instruction in theory as well as practical in respective trades. The value of the good produced by these students incidental to training during the month of January 1956 was Rs. 526-7-3 and the sale of goods produced amounted Rs.537-7-3.

Demonstration of small power-driven machines was arranged at the All India Industrial Exhibition in the Commerce and Industries Department's stall for the benefit of the public.

x x x

Development Centres

By conducting Demonstrations to acquaint Village artisans in the use of improved tools and equipments and modern better and cheaper methods of production, the Village Industries Development Centres functioning at Aurangabad, Bidar, Gulberga, Warangal, Karimnagar and Mahboobnagar gained much popularity in the rural areas of the districts. 267 demonstrations arranged during the month have benefitted 1,493 villagers. Besides this 325 artisan boys are receiving training in various village crafts at these centres. During the month these students have produced goods worth Rs. 7,020/- and sales of finished goods during the same period amounted to Rs. 4885/-.

MORARJIBHAI AT KHERWADI

Shri Morarji Desai, Chief Minister of Bombay suggested to the Municipal Corporation to undertake a five Year Plan to remove the existing slums in the city. He appealed to the people to extend their active co-operation to implement such a plan.

The Chief Minister made this appeal speaking at the first annual function of the Parishramalaya conducted by the Kherwadi Social Welfare Association at Kherwadi on Sunday, May 6. He observed that until the last slum was removed from the city area, Bombay had no claim to be called a beautiful city. He added that this was not any one man's job or any one institution's responsibility, but of all, viz., the Govern-

ment, the Municipality and the citizens.

Recalling his visit to Kherwadi more than a year ago, the Chief Minister expressed satisfaction at the improvement work done in a year's time, though much still remained to be done. In this connection he told the people whom the Parishramalaya sought to serve that, unless they realised their responsibility for improvement work in their village, no amount of work done by outsiders would bring about the desired results.

Referring to the demand made on behalf of the people of Kherwadi by Shri K. M. Javeri in his welcome speech for construction of a housing colony, Shri Morarji Desai expressed the opinion that the Muncipality might undertake such a scheme, if the people came forward to help it. He, however, asked the people to repair their roads before undertaking such a scheme.

Referring to the increasing activities of the boot-leggers, the Chief Minister said that it was for well-behaved citizens who were not few in number, to enforce prohibition in their village. It was not the work of the police alone.

Shri B. G. Kher assured the Chief Minister that a garden suburb would be raised at the existing site if proper help came from the Municipality. He said that the housing plans of Kherwadi and the adjacent colonies of Golibar and Jawaharnagar were ready. He requested the Chief Minister to do something in the matter of provision of housing.

Among those present were Shri D. N. Wandrekar, Dy. Minister for Backward classes, Shri Salebhai Abdul Kadar, Mayor of Bombay and Shri P. R. Nayak, Muncipal Commissioner.

ALL INDIA SPINNING COMPETITION

The Annual All India Hand-spinning Competition was held this year in Calcutta on the 30th, 31st March and 1st April. The arrangements for these competitions were made by the Zonal Office of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board at Calcutta.

In all 70 competitors from the following 7 states participated :

1.	Bihar	22
2.	Bombay	10
3.	Madhya Pradesh	1
4.	Punjab	2
5.	Saurashtra	4
6.	Uttar Pradesh	5
7.	West Bengal	26

On the 30th March, Professor Priya Ranjan Sen of the Harijan Sevak Sangh, West Bengal, inaugurated the competition which started at 9 A. M. with "Gati Katai" (Speed competition) with 25 competitors of whom 13 were declared successful.

On the 31st of March, the second competition viz. Majduri Katai (wage spinning) was held. In this competition 38 competitors participated and 25 were declared successful.

On the 1st of April, both the *Mahin* Katai (fine yarn spinning) and Takli Katai (Spinning on Takli) competitions

were arranged. There were 7 competitors for Takli Spinning and 41 competitors for *Mahin* spinning. In *Mahin* spinning 33 and in Takli spinning 4 were declared successful.

On the second of April the Zonal Director arranged a demonstration of spinning for the benefit of the public.

The prize distribution function was held on the 4th April, 1956 at the Raj Bhavan at Calcutta. It was presided over by Shri Satish Chandra Das Gupta, Member, All India Khadi and Village Industries Board. Shri H. C. Mukherjee, the Governor, was the Chief Guest and Smt. Bangbala Mukherjee distributed the prizes.

Below are the results of competitions for the last three years:

	Gati Katai (2 hours)	Majdoori (2 hours)	Mahin (1 hour)	Takli (1 hour)
1954 Delhi	1333 rounds	Rs. 0-5-6	*349½ counts	337 rounds
1955 Bombay	1330 rounds	Rs. –	269½ counts	345 rounds
1956 Calcutta	1298 rounds	Rs. 0-5-9	286½ counts	403 rounds

*Apparatus to determine the counts was not then perfect.

PALM GUR CO-OPS FEDERATE

In Saurashtra, all existing primary co-operative societies of Palm Gur producers have formed themselves into a State Palm Gur Co-operative Federation with the Joint Secretary of the State Khadi and Village Industries Board as its Chairman. At the last session of the All India Palm Gur Workers Conference a resolution was passed urging upon the State Governments to accord recognition to the respective State Palm Gur Co-operative Federations as a step towards the implementation of the programme for the development of Palm Gur Industry in the country. In pursuance of this resolution Shri Gajanan Naik, Palm Gur Adviser of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board, held discussion with Shri Ratubhai Adani, Minister of Development, Saurashtra. Shri Naik explained to the Minister that the recognition of the Federation would go a long way in strengthening the co-operative organisations of the Palm Gur producers and facilitate more efficient execution of the Palm Gur development scheme. As a result of the talks, it was agreed that the State Palm Gur Co-operative Federation would be recognised by the State Government as the main agency through which schemes would be worked and aids channelled. It was also agreed that the Federation could undertake commercial activities like the sale of Neera etc.

KOLKI GRAM PANCHAYAT

Out of 3,500 Village Panchayats in Saurashtra, two Panchayats stood first in the competition held by the Gram Panchayat Madhyastha Mandal. Of these two, the Panchayat of Kolki Village has been able to provide a number of facilities to the people like roads, water-supply, drainage, a building for school, Mahila Vikas Kendra, Bal Mandir, Ayurvedic Dispensary, Maternity Home, Radha-Krishna Temple, etc. in the short period of six years. In the construction of these, the Panchayat received the active co-operation of the people in the village.

The Panchayat gives aid to the village school to promote instruction in spinning. Two hundred charkhas have been introduced. It is also proposed to start cottage match industry in this school and, for this purpose, three persons have been trained at Junagadh and necessary equipment has also been purchased by the Panchayat. Arrangements are being made to start the Hand-made Paper Industry in the village and a flaying centre for the development of Village Leather Industry.

The manufacture of nut-crackers is a flourishing village industry in this village. Nut-crackers made here are famous all over Saurashtra and are also exported to Bombay. After some time, electricity will be available to Kolki when the Panchayat proposes to run the industry of making nut-crackers with electricity, and also start handloom and other small scale industries.

MIDNAPUR EXHIBITION

The Midnapur District Gramodyog Exhibition which was held under the auspices of the Midnapur District Congrees Conference at Nandigram from 27th March was, judged from all standards, a grand success. It was opened by Shri J. Panjha, Minister of Small and Cottage Industries in the presence of a distinguished gathering which included Dr. B. C. Roy, Chief Minister, Shri P. G. Sen, Food Minister, Shri A. K. Mukherjee, Irrigation Minister, Prof. Humayun Kabir and others. The Exhibition continued for a week.

Thirty-six different cottage industries and their processes were demonstrated by 150 skilled artisans and craftsmen. The process of Khadi production, including the Ambar Charkha and Muslin Katai (fine yarn spinning), were the chief objects of attraction. Paddy-husking by Assam Dhenki and Chakki, oil-crushing by improved ghani, paper-making, soap-making from non-edible oils, bee-keeping, basket-making, bamboo and cane-work, brass and copper work, clay modelling, earthenwares, mat-weaving, palm-leaf work, rope-making, by improved charkha, book-binding, smithy, needle-work, embroidery,

carpentry, salt manufacture by solar evaporation, leather work, manufacture of musical instruments and palm gur were some of the industries demonstrated. Besides, there was a Bhoodan stall where charts, posters and Sarvodaya literatures were displayed. Various features of Nai Talim or Basic Education were demonstrated in separate stalls where handiworks of the students of different basic schools and charts and posters were exhibited. Besides the demonstration stalls, the exhibition provided sales stalls where Khadi and village industries products were sold.

PADAYATRA IN TRAVANCORE

The All India Bhoodan Padayatra was inaugurated by Dr. Rajendra Prasad President of India, in the first week of February at Cape Comorin. Since then it has progressed well, gaining life and momentum. The declared aim of the Padayatra is not only collection of land for distribution amongst the land-less, but also to evolve a technique of village reconstruction. The Padayatris make a socio-economic survey of the villages they visit and study the possibilities of introducing cottage and village industries there. They organise mass-spinning and congregational prayers. They organise mass-spinning and congregational prayers. The Bhoodanyatris divide themselves into different Jathas with a view to cover as many villages as possible.

The Padayatris have regular time table of work. On alternate nights they meet for assessment of the information collected and discuss plans for the villages. Encouragement of village industries is an important part of their activities. Children are taught spinning. In the Gramdan villages, soap-making units will be started, followed by the development of other village industries.

Three members have undertaken permanent follow-up work. They will visit the villages where the village industries have not been started. They will help the villagers in starting village industries, such as soap-making, spinning, mat-making. cottage match, poultry, bee-keeping etc.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Rural Reconstruction Centre at Marthandam, (South Travancore), which is one of the units developed by the council of Y. M. C. As. in 1924, has continued to the nerve-centre of rural reconstruction activities in the Travancore area. The activities of the Centre are spread over 59 surrounding villages.

One of the important planks of the Centre's programme is the development of village industries. With the co-operation of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board it has stabilised the bee-keeping industry in Travancore-Cochin State. There are over 12,000 beehives in the Marthandam Extension

Area. The Centre's Bee-keepers Co-operative Society helps tho bee-keepers to market nearly 5,000 lbs. of honey a year. With the Centre's efforts honey has become a popular diet for the poor and the rich in the area. Bee-keepers trained in the centre are employed in other parts of India to promote this industry. Poultry, too, is encouraged by the Centre.

In addition, the Centre carries on the following activities :

1. Training men and women in rural uplift work. Over 3,100 candidates have been trained for Rural Service.
2. Improvement of cattle and goats.
3. Teaching mat-making, spinning and weaving to boys and girls.
4. Distribution of seeds, seedlings and fruit plants at concession rates to the villagers.
5. Conducting night schools and needlework classes in the villages for women and girls.
6. Running 20 libraries and reading rooms in the villages.
7. Conducting recreational activities for boys and young men and the community. Work in this direction is being carried on in 45 villages among 1089 boys and 4-H clubs have been organised in 10 villages.
8, Maintaining Health services for women and children.

LET US MARCH WITH THE AMBAR CHARKHA

As the date for the final assessment of the Ambar Charkha approaches nearer, public interest in the instrument increases and there is a better appreciation of its potentiality and utility. The very comprehensive resolution passed by the Gujarat Branch of the Bharat Sevak Samaj at its recent meeting highlights this public interest and appreciation and gives expression to them in vivid language. The text of the resolution is given below:

"1. The question of poverty and unemployment in the rural areas is one of the most serious and difficult problem that faces the country. The only way to remove this countrywide unemployment is to encourage village and cottage industries. The fulfilment of this goal is possible if the production and manufacture of our daily necessities of life, as food and cloth, is assigned to these industries. It is the duty of all of us to take effective steps for its satisfactory solution. The scheme of the Ambar Charkha and production of Khadi introduced by the Khadi Board can give suitable gainful occupation to more than 50 lakhs of men and women in their houses in the course of next five years. This scheme is of great importance and urgency from the point of view of the welfare of the masses. This meeting, therefore, whole-heartedly welcomes this scheme and resolves to give its active co-operation in the great task of implementing it successfully.

2. Since this scheme relates to decentralised production, its work has to be spread and carried out all over the contry and its success depends on the devoted co-operation and earnest efforts of the entire population. This meeting, therefore, earnestly requests the people of the country and institutions interested in social service to adopt this programme and do all that is possible to make it a success.

Call to Nation

3. The scheme has set a target of producing 40 crore lbs. of yarn and 150 crore yds. Khadi at the end of five years. This can be achieved if the people determine to purchase all the Khadi that is produced from year to year. This meeting, therefore, urges upon the people to adopt Khadi for their wear and to make use of it for their requirements to the maximum extent possible. The cloth to be produced under this scheme amounts to only 1/5th of the total quantity of cloth consumed in the country. If the entire population makes an earnest effort and takes up Khadi for at least 1/5th of their total requirements it would be easy to dispose of the Khadi produced and help the activity to develop to its fullest extent.

4. As exclusive dependence on mill cloth on the part of village people for their requirements is not desirable in the interests of the satisfactory development of their economic and social life and as the discovery of Ambar Charkha has made it comparatively easier to attain individual and village self-sufficiency in respect of cloth, this meeting requests the village people to learn to spin on the Ambar Charkha and utilize the yarn and the cloth produced from it for their personal needs. This meeting draws the attention of the village population to the fact that even if one able bodied adult in a family spins regularly for two hours every day at the rate of 2 ozs. of yarn for 250 days in a year, more than 30 lbs. of yarn will de produced and this will suffice to give more than 100 yds. of cloth required for the needs of a family of 5 persons at the rate of 20 yds. per head.

Appeal to Weavers

5. The Ambar Charkha Scheme is to provide employment to large numbers of poor people in the villages and especially to the women folk. Ordinarily, the hand spun cloth (Khadi) is dearer, and consequently its use is restricted. The potentiality of the Ambar Charkha is such that it not only provides a decent wage for the worker, but also makes Khadi much cheaper, thereby eliminating this handicap to a great extent. This meeting, therefore, urges upon the weavers to welcome the yarn spun by them and use it in the handlooms and also adopt this cloth for their own use.

6. As it is not beneficial for the Handloom Industry to rely only on the mill yarn, and as the discovery of the Ambar Charkha makes it possible for the handloom weavers to produce the additional yarn they may require in their own homes, this meeting, requests the Handloom weavers to take up the Ambar Charkha set, for their use and to provide for the needs of their family. Attention is invited to the fact that even if a single person in the family receives training and works for 8 hours a day, he can produce in 300 days, 150 lbs. of yarn of 16 counts at the rate of ½ lb. per day i.e. produce yarn sufficient to produce 500 yds. of cloth.

Duty of State

7. The meeting urges on the Planning Commission and the Government to sanction the entire scheme of the Khadi Board and give it adequate protection, financial help and other facilities

having regard to the importance of this programme for the removal of poverty and unemployment in the villages of India and for the organisation of village life on sound lines.

8. It is the considered opinion of this meeting that it is possible to produce the entire quantity of the additional cloth required in the next five years through the Handloom Industry. It therefore, requests the Congress Government to see that the target of the mill production which is fixed at 500 crore yards is strictly adhered to and all the additional cloth necessary for the country is produced through handlooms. Since the Handloom Industry also provides employment for large numbers of people, this meetingre quests the Government to continue to give necessary protection to it by maintaining its policy not to give permission for the installation of new looms in the mechanised industry and to provide the handloom industry with necessary finance, equipment and training for its full development.

Stop Those Licences

9. It is the considered opinion of this meeting that the spindles installed in the Textile Industry have the capacity not only to produce 500 crore yds. of mill cloth and supply the yarn necessary for 150 crore yds. of handloom cloth, but can also provide, if fully utilized by working more shifts, additional quantities of yarn to meet the requirements of the Handloom Industry in any emergency of shortage of yarn. This meeting, therefore, is of opinion that it is not necessary to give licences to instal additional spindles over and above the spindles now working in the Industry, and believes that the licences recently issued for about 20 lakhs additional spindles will not only involve unnecessary investment of a large amount of money, but will also create serious obstacles in the important work of removing unemployment through the Ambar Charkha. It, therefore, requests the Congress Government to cancel the licences that have been issued recently. The meeting further requests the Government to fix 35 crore lbs. as the target for production of mill yarn for the 150 crore yds. of handloom cloth over and above what is utilized for mill cloth, and leave the scope for additional yarn required open for the Ambar Charkha. If, in the initial stages of the Second Five Year Plan, the Government experiences difficulties due to shortage of yarn, additional shifts may be worked in the mills during such critical period with the help of the existing spindles to produce the required quantity of yarn and no sooner the arrangements are completed to produce this yarn through Ambar Charkha, the additional yarn production of the textile mills may be discontinued.

10. Lastly this meeting of the Bharat Sevak Samaj, (Gujarat) earnestly requests the Industrialists, merchants and the public to extend their full co-operation in this great task by duly contributing their share in the task of making this scheme of Ambar Charkha a great success."

TRAINING IN KHADI

In the programmes of development during the Second Five Year Plan period, Khadi and other Village Industries will occupy a very significant place. Programmes which started operation three years ago will be considerably expanded in regard to organisation of production, training of personnel and marketing of the produce. The All India Khadi and Village Industries Board has, therefore, decided to set up training institutions in different parts of the country in addition to the existing Vidyalayayas. The object is to train as many persons as possible for different types of personnel that will be required to successfully carry out its schemes.

The Khadi Gramodyog Mahavidyalaya at Nasik which is the Central National Institution where adequate facilities for training in Khadi and other Village Industries exist will now admit for training 250 candidates in 6 different courses. Of these 250 candidates 100 seats are reserved to train Block Level Extension Officers of the Community Projects Administration in the Sangathak course. The other courses are :

1. Katai Visharad,
2. Bunai Visharad,
3. Khadi Gramodyog Adhyapana Visharad,
4. Katai Karyakarta, and
5. Bunai Karyakarta.

The period of training for the first two is 12 months and 15 months, respectively. Admission to the Katai Visharad course is restricted to those who have successfully undergone the Katai Karyakarta course or Uttar Buniyadi course or to those who are graduates or possess an equivalent qualification.

Candidates seeking admission for Bunai Visharad course must have either successfully undergone Bunai Karyakarta course or have passed Uttar Buniyadi course or hold a 'Weaving Diploma' of a recognised industrial school or are graduates or possess equivalent qualification. Those who have practical working experience of both spinning and weaving for a period of five or more years may also be admitted at the discretion of the Director of Training.

The Khadi Gramodyog Sanghathak is a course prescribed for the Block Level Extension Officers of the Community Projects Administration. Admission to this course is ordinarily restricted to those deputed by State Governments or the Community Projects Administration, though applications from qualified persons will also be considered. The period of training for this course is 12 months.

The course of training for Katai Karyakarta and Bunai Karyakarta is of 9 and 12 months' duration respectively, and after successful training, are eligible for admission to the Katai Visharad and Bunai Visharad courses. In such cases, the period of training for the higher grades will be only 9 and 12

months respectively. Training in Khadi Gramodyog Adhyapana Visharad course is on par with training of instructors or teachers.

Admission to this course will be restricted to those who have successfully undergone Katai and Bunai Visharad courses or to those who have adequate experience of working in Katai and Bunai sections of a recognised Khadi production centre. Selection of those who come under the third category will be subject to an entrance examination. The new course will start on June, 11 1956 at the Khadi Gramodyog Mahavidyalaya at Tryambak Vidya Mandir near Nasik.

Ordinarily, preference will be given to candidates sponsored by Khadi Institutions, State Khadi and Village Industries Boards and State Governments. Exception has been, however, made to admit those who may not be so sponsored, but may be desirous of undergoing the training. Applications will be received by the Principal of the Vidyalaya till 31st of May, 1956. On admission each candidate for the Katai Visharad, Bunai Visharad, Katai Karyakarta and Bunai Karyakarta courses will be given a stipend of Rs. 40- per month. Those admitted for the Khadi Gramodyog Adhyapana Visharad course will be given a stipend of Rs. 60/- per month. No travelling allowances are admissible. Application forms and other details can be had from the Principal of the Vidyalaya.

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AMBAR CHARKHA IN EVERY HOME

"After thirty years of research, the AMBAR CHARKHA has been invented. It must now go to every hut in the village and the weavers must now increasingly use the yarn produced by it. We must first put a ceiling on the yardage of cloth produced by the mills and we must not allow any increase in the present number of spindles. The Government have been considering this question for quite a long time. But they do not seem to have finally made up their mind yet. They are very hesitant. The vested interests are frightening and misleading them.

When I advocate the Ambar Charkha some people call me a fadist. They say : if I do not object to the improved Charkha, why should I oppose the mills ? Both are fundamentally the same. They think I am retrograde and old-fashioned. I travel on foot and do not avail myself of the modern facilities of transport. I walk on foot because I want to keep to the earth. I do not want to swim in the air. I am not against new inventions. I, rather, welcome them. I am opposed to increasing unemployment in the land. We have an immense supply of labour. This labour power must be the starting point of our economics. Machine has to be considered in relation to this vast sea of the unemployed, A machine which proves to be beneficial to the teeming millions will always be welcome. But I consider it retrograde and reactionary to worship the machine irrespective of its effect on the vast mass of men living in the country.

In a country like the U.S. where the average per capita size of the land is 12 acres, one may use machines with advantage, but the average per capita land in India is hardly 3/4 of an acre. It would be sheer cruelty and madness to add to unemployment by introducing machines. I have put these facts before many prominent Ministers and their advisers. No one has been able to show any flaw in my reasoning. But they do not accept it and act upon it. They keep on toying with the idea of increasing production and unemployment by using machines......... If some one proves to me that big machines will end unemployment I am willing to be converted.

The first plan period is over. Unemployment has not materially decreased. That the population increases every year by 10 lakhs is no excuse. Planners have to take this fact into account and provide for it. People will say : You can't insult us by pointing your finger to the annual increase in our number."

—VINOBA BHAVE

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